



*Habit of an English Gentleman
about 1700.*

From Sir G. Kneller.



THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND,
FROM THE
INVASION OF JULIUS CÆSAR,
TO THE
CALLING of the PARLIAMENT in 1774.
ADORNED WITH PLATES.
IN FOURTEEN VOLUMES.

By JOSEPH COLLYER,
Author of the NEW SYSTEM OF GEOGRAPHY,
in Two Volumes Folio.

VOL. XIII.

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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
E N G L A N D.



W I L L I A M I I I.

I N the summer of the year 1698,
he had gone over to Holland,
where a treaty of partition was
concluded between England,
France, and the States, concern-
ing the succession of the Spanish
dominions, in case the king of Spain, who
was now old, and in a very ill state of health,
should die without issue. By this treaty, the
kingdoms of Naples and Sicilly, with several
other

4 THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

other places, particularly those on the French side of the Pyrenees, were to be given to the dauphin of France; Spain, the Spanish Netherlands, and their dominions in America, were to devolve to the electoral prince of Bavaria; and the dutchy of Milan to the archduke Charles, the emperor's second son. In the beginning of the year 1700, a second treaty was concluded, on occasion of the death of the electoral prince of Bavaria, whose share was now assigned to the archduke Charles; and the duke of Lorrain, whose country was to be given to France, was to have the dutchy of Milan. King William's design in this treaty was, doubtless, to create a proper balance of power in Europe; to prevent the too great aggrandizement of France, and a ruinous war: but he was only amused by the French king, who, though he himself proposed this partition, had, at the same time, another design in view; and made use of this treaty to accomplish it: for the Spaniards being enraged at having their monarchy thus dismembered, without their consent, Lewis XIV. by his intrigues at the court of Madrid, under the pretence of preserving the Spanish monarchy entire, brought the king of Spain to sign a will, in which he made Philip, duke of Anjou, Lewis's grandson, his universal heir.

In the parliament, which met on the 16th of November 1699, great debates arose about the Irish forfeited estates; and on resuming the grants which the king had made of several of them to his ministers and most faithful friends;
and

and applying all to the use of the public. In April 1700, the commons, in order to carry their point, tacked the bill of resumption to the land-tax bill, which occasioned great heats between the two houses, the lords making many amendments, to which the commons would not agree; when the king fearing the consequences, sent a private message to advise the lords to pass the bill, which was so very disagreeable to himself, without any amendments; and on the 11th of April, having signed it, he prorogued the parliament. Immediately after which, he took the great seal from lord Sommers, and gave it to Sir Nathan Wright, with the title of lord keeper.

In the beginning of July 1700, the king went over again to Holland; and on the 29th of the same month, died the duke of Gloucester, the only remaining child of seven of the prince and princess of Denmark. He died of a malignant fever, in the eleventh year of his age. The king was very fond of him, and had appointed the earl of Marlborough his governor, and the bishop of Salisbury his preceptor. His death was much lamented by the greatest part of the nation; not only on account of his promising talents and gentle behaviour; but as it left the succession to the crown undetermined, and might create disputes of fatal consequence to the nation.

Charles, king of Spain, dying towards the end of this year, the duke of Anjou was declared king of Spain, by his grandfather Lewis XIV. And the French at the same time over-

6 THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

running the Spanish Netherlands, both king William and the States were obliged to own the duke of Anjou's title, in order to gain time, till they were in a condition to oppose the designs of France.

His majesty, soon after his return, dissolved the parliament; and at the same time, to please those now distinguished by the name of the church party, made some alterations in the ministry; having first called up to the house of lords Charles Montague, by the title of lord Halifax. That gentleman was chancellor of the exchequer, when the great affair of the coin was regulated, chiefly by his skill and address. The new parliament meeting in February 1701, the king, in his speech, mentioning the death of the duke of Gloucester, recommended a farther provision in the Protestant line, after his death and that of the princess Anne. The Jacobites had openly exulted in an event, which they imagined would remove the principal bar to the accession of the son of James: but the Protestants generally turned their eyes upon the princess Sophia; and on the 12th of June 1701, his majesty passed the famous act for the farther limitation of the crown, and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject, by which the crown was limited to the above princess Sophia, electress dowager of Hanover, and her Protestant heirs. She was grand daughter of king James I. by his daughter Elizabeth, queen of Bohemia, and the mother of George I. afterwards king of Great Britain.

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The partition treaty was now censured by both houses. The king had believed, that the conjunction of the two monarchies of France and Spain would prove fatal to the liberties of Europe, and that this could not be prevented by any other means than a general union of the other European powers: but the parliament of England had not such extensive views. The commons even went so far as to impeach of high crimes and misdemeanors, the earl of Portland, the chief manager of that treaty, and the earl of Oxford, with the lords Sommers and Halifax, as the advisers of it. The peers favoured these lords; and after long debates, messages and conferences, on the time and manner of their trial, which occasioned a great breach between the two houses, the lords themselves appointed a day for the trial of the lords Sommers and Oxford, against whom articles had been exhibited; when the commons not appearing, they were acquitted; and the lords at the same time dismissed the impeachment against the lords Portland and Halifax, and the old one against the duke of Leeds. The king, on the same day, put an end to these dissensions, by proroguing the parliament.

In the beginning of this session, a petition, signed by the deputy-lieutenants, above twenty justices of the peace, with the grand jury and freeholders of Kent, had been presented to the house of commons by five gentlemen of fortune and distinction, recommending union among themselves, and confidence in his majesty, whose great actions for the nation could
never

8 THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

never be forgot, without the blackest ingratitude : to beg them to have a regard to the voice of the people ; that their religion and safety might be effectually provided for ; and that his most sacred majesty might be enabled powerfully to assist his allies before it should be too late. The house was so incensed at this petition, that they committed the gentlemen who presented it to the Gatehouse, where they were visited and caressed by the chief of the whig interest. Their confinement gave rise to a very extraordinary paper, intituled, “ A Memorial of the “ Gentlemen Freeholders and Inhabitants of “ the Counties of ————— in behalf of “ themselves, and many thousands of the good “ people of England.” This paper was sent to the speaker in a letter, commanding him, in the name of 200,000 Englishmen, to deliver it to the house of commons. It boldly charged the house with illegal and unwarrantable practices in fifteen particulars, and admonished the members to act according to their duty, on pain of incurring the resentment of an injured nation ; and it concluded with these words, “ Englishmen are no more to be slaves to parliaments than to kings ; our name is Legion, and we are many.” The commons were equally provoked and intimidated by this paper, which was the production of Daniel de Foe ; but this was not then known. The house, however, perceiving that they had incurred the popular resentment, thought fit to change their measures, and presented an address, in which they promised to support the king

king in the alliances he should contract with the emperor and other states, in order to bridle the exorbitant power of France.

The death of the late king James, on the 5th of September, at St. Germain's, in the same year 1701, and the French king's declaring the pretended prince of Wales king of these realms, gave a new turn to the minds of the people, and made them all unite in a firm adherence to king William; and in their abhorrence of this indignity put upon him and the nation.

The king having dissolved the parliament, which was become extremely odious to the nation, summoned another to meet on the 30th of December; and they being met, he made an excellent speech to both houses on the present posture of affairs*; the late insolent step of the French king; the dangers that threatened Europe, by his placing his grandson on the throne of Spain; and the alliances he himself had made for obviating those dangers. To which both houses returned the most satisfactory addresses; the commons in particular proposing, that it might be an article in the several treaties of alliance, "That no peace

* This speech was received with universal applause; and was so much admired by the friends of liberty and the revolution, that it was printed with decorations in the English, Dutch, and French, languages, and was hung up in all their houses, as the king's last legacy to his own, and all Protestant people.

" should

“ should be made with France, till his ma-
 “ jesty and the nation have reparation for the
 “ indignity offered by the French king, in
 “ declaring the pretended prince of Wales
 “ king of England, Scotland, and Ireland.”
 They then voted 40,000 land forces, and as
 many for the sea service.

William, during the preceding summer, had
 gone to Holland in order to form a confederacy
 against France; and his return was delayed a
 month by a severe indisposition. He himself
 perceived his end was near; for he told the
 earl of Portland, he found himself so weak,
 that he could not expect to live another sum-
 mer; but charged him to conceal this circum-
 stance till he expired. Notwithstanding his
 near approach to dissolution, he exerted himself
 with surprizing diligence and spirit, in com-
 pleting the confederacy, and settling the plan
 of operations; but he did not live to see his
 schemes put in execution. On his return to
 England he endeavoured to conceal his illness,
 and to repair his health by exercise; but on
 the 21st of February 1702, in riding from
 Kensington to Hampton-court, his horse falling
 under him, threw him with such violence on
 the ground, as produced a fracture in his right
 collar-bone. His attendants conveyed him to
 the palace of Hampton-court, where the frac-
 ture was reduced by Ronjat, his serjeant-sur-
 geon. In the evening he returned in his coach
 to Kensington, when the two ends of the frac-
 tured bone being disunited by the jolting of
 the carriage, were replaced. He some days
 after

after granted a commission to several peers for giving the royal assent to an act for attainting the pretended prince of Wales of high treason, and to another for the farther security of his majesty's person, and the succession of the crown in the Protestant line. About the same time he sent a letter to the commons, earnestly recommending an union between the two kingdoms of England and Scotland. On the 4th of March the king was able to take several turns in the gallery at Kensington; but sitting down on a couch, and falling asleep, he was seized with a shivering, which terminated in a fever and diarrhoea, and died with great composure and resignation, on the 8th of March, in the fifty-second year of his age, and the fourteenth of his reign.

William III. was of the middle stature, slender, of a delicate constitution, and subject, from his infancy, to a cough and an asthma. He had an aqueline nose, a high forehead, sparkling eyes, and great gravity of aspect. He had a natural sagacity, great penetration, and a courage, fortitude, and equanimity, not inferior to the greatest heroes of antiquity. He was religious, temperate, just, sincere, and a stranger to violent transports of passion. He, however, spoke but little, and wanted that pleasing address, and those engaging manners, with which Charles the Second rendered himself so agreeable to his companions, and which, among his admirers, atoned for a number of his vices: he likewise wanted his insincerity,
and

and never appeared delighted with those he despised. "There was a simplicity, an elevation, and an utility in all the actions of William's life. The last treaty which he signed was the grand alliance; the last act of parliament that he passed, was one which completed the security of the Hanover succession; and the last message he sent to parliament, while he was in a manner expiring, was to recommend an union between two parts of the island which had been too long divided*." That the seven United Provinces did not lose their liberty by being conquered by France; that this island did not sink into the most abject slavery; that the Protestant religion was not abolished by law in every country in Europe, appears, under God, to have been owing to him. To him it is owing, that mankind now see the singular spectacle of a monarchy, in which the sovereign derives a degree of greatness and security from the liberty of his people, which treasures and arms cannot bestow upon other princes. His great crime among the patrons of the slavish doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance was, that he preferred the religious and civil liberty of mankind, to his father-in-law's enjoying the splendor of a crown, and that he accepted of that crown, when it was freely offered him by the people he had saved: but this was necessary, both for the security of England and of his native country; and he, perhaps,

* Dalrymple's Memoirs, Vol. II. p. 245.

felt the cruelty of this necessity, much more than those who censure him for complying with it: for Sir John Dalrymple asserts, that he has seen an original letter from lord Portland to king William, after the peace of Ryswick, in which that nobleman informs him, that, according to his orders, he had offered a pension of 50,000 l. a year to king James; and that at a time when it was far from being as certain as it is now, that this prince had not employed the assassins who resolved to murder him.

C H A P. II.

A N N E.

She is proclaimed Queen, and resolves to prosecute the War against France. The Duke of Marlborough made General in chief; but after taking several Towns, is made Prisoner; but by his presence of Mind procures his Escape. The Battle of Vigo. Admiral Benbow's fatal Engagement in the West Indies. The Duke of Marlborough takes Bonne, Huy, and Limburg. The Success of the French in Germany and Italy. The great Storm. The Archduke Charles arrives in England. The Queen's Bounty to the Clergy. Marlborough forces the Enemy's Intrenchments at Schellenberg, obtains the Victory of Blenheim. Admiral Rooke takes Gibraltar. An Engagement at Sea near Malaga. The Reduction of Barcelona. The Victory of Ramellies, and the Conquest of almost all the Spanish Netherlands. Turin relieved. The Union of England and Scotland. An Attempt against Toulon. The Pretender disappointed in an Attempt to invade Scotland. The Battle of Oudenarde. Lisle taken. Sardinia and Minorca conquered. The Death of Prince George of Denmark. Tournay taken. The Battle of Malplaquet. Harley and St. John undermine the Duke of Marlborough. Sacheverel's Trial.

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ANNE.

*General Stanhope obtains the Victory of Al-
menuara. The Battle of Saragossa. General
Stanhope and his Troops surrender themselves
Prisoners of War. The Battle of Villaviciosa.
The Government put into the Hands of the To-
ries. An Attempt to murder Harley. Marl-
borough surprizes the French Lines, takes Bou-
chain, and is deprived of his Post, which is
given to Ormond. The Peace of Utrecht.
The Death of the Princess Sophia. The Mi-
nistry quarrel, and Oxford is removed from
the Treasury. The Queen's Sickness, Death
and Character.*

WILLIAM had no sooner expired, than the privy-council waited on the princess Anne of Denmark, the second daughter of James II. who succeeded to the throne by virtue of the act of settlement made in the preceding reign; and she was accordingly proclaimed queen on the 8th of March 1702, to the general satisfaction of all parties. The Jacobites seemed pleased with her elevation, from the supposition, that as she would probably have no heir, she would leave the succession to her own brother, the young pretender. She had entertained warm sentiments in favour of the Tories, whom she considered as the true friends of the church and of monarchy; but in her conduct was entirely influenced by the prince of Denmark and the countess of Marlborough.

As the parliament, which used to be dissolved on the death of the sovereign, continued to exist in virtue of an act passed in the late

reign, both houses immediately assembled, and presented addresses of condolence for the death of the late king, and congratulations for her majesty's happy accession.

On the 11th of March the queen made a speech to both houses, in which she told them, that she could not too much lament her unhappiness in succeeding to the crown, immediately after the loss of a king who was the great support not only of the liberties of this kingdom, but of all Europe: that she was sensible of the weight and difficulty it brought upon her, and that it should be her constant endeavours to make them the best return for their duty and affection, by a careful and diligent administration of the government, for the good of all her subjects; and was glad to find them of her mind, that too much could not be done for the encouragement of her allies, and to reduce the exorbitant power of France. Addresses of congratulation were presented by the bishop and clergy of London, by the dissenters in and about that city, and by all the cities, towns, and corporations of England. In return, she declared her attachment to the church; promised protection to the dissenters, and received the compliments of all her subjects with an affability that engaged their affection.

The States, on receiving the news of William's death, immediately assembled; and, for some time, gazed at each other in silent fear and astonishment. They wept, then interchanged embraces and vows, that they would act with unanimity, and expend their dearest blood

blood in defence of their country. Mean while her majesty having declared the earl of Marlborough captain-general of all her forces, and invested him with the order of the garter, wrote a letter to the States-General, to assure them of her inviolable friendship, and resolution to maintain her alliances with them, and to prosecute the plan begun by her predecessor. She then sent the earl as her ambassador extraordinary, to concert measures with them.

In the mean time, the news of William's death diffused the greatest joy through the kingdom of France; public rejoicings were made at Paris; and the court of Versailles could hardly restrain their transports, so as to preserve a proper decorum. At Rome all decency was laid aside; and this incident produced such joy and raptures, that cardinal Grimani, the Imperial minister, complained of them to the pope, as an insult on his master, who was William's friend, confederate, and ally.

The commons having voted the queen the same revenue for life, which had been enjoyed by king William, she came to the parliament on the 30th of March, and giving them her thanks, generously told them, that she would give 100,000*l.* of it for the public service of the present year. Her majesty was crowned on the 23d of April; and about the same time, the council ordered the princess Sophia to be publicly prayed for.

There already appeared a rivalry for the queen's favour, between the earls of Rochester and Marlborough; the former, as the queen's

18 THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

uncle by the mother's side, and chief of the tory faction, maintained considerable influence in the council; but even there the advice of his rival predominated. Rochester proposed in council, that the English should act against France only as auxiliaries; while Marlborough proposed, that the English should enter into the quarrel as principals, that being the only means of reducing the power of France within due bounds; and he being joined by the dukes of Somerset and Devonshire, the earl of Pembroke, with the majority of the council, war was declared against France on the 4th of May; and, in this proclamation, the French king was charged with having taken possession of great part of the Spanish dominions; with designing to invade the liberties of Europe; to obstruct the freedom of navigation and commerce; and with having offered an unpardonable insult to the queen and her throne, by presuming to declare the pretended prince of Wales king of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The design of this war was to restore the balance of Europe, by taking the Spanish dominions out of the hands of the French king, who had seized them for his grandson, and placing the archduke Charles, the second son of the emperor Leopold, on the throne of Spain, whom the allies acknowledged as king, in opposition to the duke of Anjou. This, as has been already intimated, was the scope of the grand alliance which William had formed with the emperor and the States-General; and
to



**CHURCHILL Duke of
MARLBOROUGH.**

to which acceded the kings of Portugal and Prussia, the duke of Savoy, and other powers.

The war was no sooner declared than lord Godolphin was constituted high-treasurer; and about the same time her majesty appointed her royal consort, prince George of Denmark, lord high admiral, and Sir George Rooke, vice-admiral of England.

The convention parliament of Scotland, which had continued through all the reign of king William, met on the 9th of June: but duke Hamilton and others, protested against its being at this time a legal parliament; they, however, continued to sit; and the queen adhered to them, in opposition to the duke of Hamilton and his party. The parliament of England was dissolved on the 2d of July, as it must have expired by the act six months after the death of the king,

We are now entering upon a war, in which the duke of Marlborough discovered his amazing military abilities; a war most glorious to England and her allies, if we consider their almost uninterrupted successes for the several years it lasted. The confederates began with the siege of Keyserfwaert, a strong town on the Rhine, which the elector of Cologne had put into the hands of the French; and notwithstanding their making a vigorous defence, the allies carried it, and the place surrendered about the beginning of June.

In the mean while the French prevailed in the Netherlands: but the States General having given their forces to the earl of Marlborough,

rough, he assembled the confederate troops in the beginning of July, and marched after the enemy, who retired before him, till they had entirely abandoned Spanish Guelderland. Not being able to bring them to an engagement, he took Venlo on the 25th of September, Ruremond on the 6th of October, Stevenswaert about the same time, and Liege about the end of that month.

The army breaking up in November, Marlborough repaired to Maestricht, from whence he proposed to return to the Hague by water. He accordingly embarked in a large boat, with twenty-five soldiers under the command of a lieutenant. But in the night a French partizan, with thirty-five men from Gueldres, lurking among the rushes on the bank, in expectation of prey, seized the rope by which the boat was drawn, hauled it ashore; and having discharged their small arms and hand grenades, rushed into the vessel, and secured the soldiers before they could put themselves into a posture of defence. Thus the earl of Marlborough, with general Opdam, and Gueldermalsen, one of the deputies of the States, were taken prisoners. These last were happily provided with passports; but the earl had neglected this precaution; and it appeared as if nothing could have saved him; but recollecting that he had an old passport for his brother general Churchill in his pocket, he, with admirable presence of mind, produced it as his own; and the French partizans being in such confusion as to neglect examining the date, were satisfied with
 rising

rifling their baggage, and carrying off the guard as prisoners; after which they allowed the boat to proceed. The governor of Venlo being informed, that Marlborough was surprized by a party, and conveyed to Gueldres, immediately marched with his whole garrison to invest that town. The same imperfect account being carried to Holland, the whole province was filled with consternation; and the States immediately assembling, resolved, that all their forces should instantly march to Gueldres to his relief: but before these orders could be dispatched, the earl, to the inexpressible joy of the people, arrived at the Hague.

The operations of the combined English and Dutch fleets, met with different success. In August they made an attempt upon Cadiz, which miscarried; but this was, in some measure, compensated by a brave and successful action at Vigo in October, where, while the duke of Ormond made himself master of the forts and batteries, vice-admiral Hopson, in the Torbay with a detachment of the fleet, broke through a very strong boom, and the whole squadron entered the harbour, amidst a prodigious fire from the enemies ships, forts and batteries. These last were, however, soon stormed and taken by the grenadiers who had landed; while the forts were silenced by the ships. After a vigorous engagement, the French, to prevent the ships and galleons falling into the hands of the victors, burned and ran a shore eight ships, and as many advice-boats; but ten ships of war were taken, together with eleven

eleven galleons. They had secured the best part of their plate and merchandize before the English fleet arrived; yet the value of fourteen millions of pieces of eight, in plate and rich commodities, were destroyed in the six galleons which perished; and about half that value was brought off by the conquerors.

The glory acquired by the English in this expedition was in some measure tarnished, by the conduct of some officers in the West Indies, where admiral Benbow engaging with du Cassé's squadron, in the neighbourhood of Hispaniola, was basely deserted by some of his captains. He had his leg shattered by a chain-shot, and yet continued to encourage his men; but finding that he was betrayed, he, with the utmost reluctance, sailed to America, where he died of his wounds some time after. Two of his captains, Kirby and Wade, being tried and condemned at Jamaica for cowardice and breach of orders, were deservedly shot on their return to Plymouth, without being suffered to set foot on shore.

The new parliament met on the 20th of October; and as the election had generally gone in favour of the tories, the commons laboured hard for a bill to prevent occasional conformity, in order to exclude all dissenters from places of trust or profit; for which some of them would qualify themselves, by receiving the sacrament once or twice at church. This bill passed the commons; but the lords made such amendments to it, that it was at length dropped. It was passed again by the commons in
the

the two succeeding sessions, but was as often thrown out by the lords.

Soon after the queen sent a message to the house, recommending a farther provision for the prince, her husband, in case he should survive her; upon which it was agreed to settle upon him the yearly sum of 100,000 l. in case he should survive her majesty. The earl of Marlborough arriving in England about the latter end of November, received the thanks of the commons for his great and signal services, which were so acceptable to the queen, that she created him a duke, granted him a pension of 5000 l. a year, upon the revenues of the post office, during his life; and in a message to the commons expressed her desire, that they would find some method of settling it on the male-heirs of his body. But this produced warm debates, and was not complied with. The marquis of Normanby was, about the same time, made duke of Buckingham.

The duke of Marlborough opened the campaign of 1703, with the siege of Bonne, which belonged to the elector of Cologne; and though the garrison made a vigorous defence, it was taken in a few days. Then marching into the Netherlands, where the French stood upon the defensive within their lines, he made himself master of Huy, the garrison of which, on the 27th of August, after making a brave defence, surrendered themselves prisoners of war. The duke, at a council of war held in the camp of the confederates, proposed to attack the enemies lines, and was seconded by the Danish, Hanoverian,

Hanoverian, and Hessian generals; but was opposed by the Dutch officers and the deputies of the States, who alledged, that the success was dubious, and that the consequences, if they succeeded, would be inconsiderable. They therefore recommended the siege of Limburg, by the reduction of which they would acquire a whole province, and cover their whole country as well as Juliers and Gueldres, from the designs of the enemy. The trenches were, therefore, opened before Limburg on the 25th of September; and in two days the place was surrendered, and the garrison made prisoners of war before the end of the year.

In the mean while the French were greatly superior in Germany and Italy. In the former, the duke of Bavaria having, the last year, declared for France, and taken Ulm, now made himself master of Ratisbon and Augsburg; and being joined by marshal Villers, pushed his conquests with such rapidity, that the whole empire was in great danger; at the same time count Tallard made himself master of Old Brisac, and retook Landau, after having defeated the Germans at the battle of Spire. In Italy, the duke of Savoy was in danger of being driven out of his dominions, but was fortunately joined by count Staremberg, at the head of 15,000 men, who marched from the Modenese in the worst season of the year, through an enemy's country, and by roads which were deemed impassible, while the French forces harraased him in his march. But surmounting all these difficulties, he joined the duke of Savoy

at Canelli, and by that means secured Piedmont.

The greatest damage England suffered this year was from the elements: for, about midnight on the 26th of November, a dreadful storm of wind, threw the south part of the kingdom into consternation. The houses in London shook from their foundations. Many of them fell, and buried the inhabitants in their ruins; and those which escaped were stripped of their tiles. The water overflowed several streets, and rose to a considerable height in Westminster-hall. London bridge was almost choaked up with the wrecks of vessels that perished in the river. The loss sustained by the capital was computed at a million sterling; and the city of Bristol suffered to a prodigious amount: but the chief national damage fell upon the navy. Thirteen ships of war were lost, together with 1500 seamen, including rear admiral Beaumont, who was then at anchor in the Downs, where his ship foundered. However, this loss was repaired with incredible diligence: for the queen immediately issued orders for building a greater number of ships than those which had been destroyed; and exercised her bounty for the relief of ship-wrecked seamen, and the widows of those who were drowned, in a manner that endeared her to all her subjects.

The archduke Charles, now acknowledged king of Spain, having first visited the Hague, arrived in England about the end of the year,

VOL. XIII. C where

where he was royally entertained by the queen and prince George at Windsor for three days; and then sailed with the combined fleets for Portugal, where he arrived with the English and Dutch auxiliaries towards the end of February 1704.

On the 7th of February the queen sent to inform the house of commons, that she had remitted the arrears of the tenths of the poor clergy: that she would grant her whole revenue arising from the first-fruits and tenths, as far as it should become free from incumbrance, as an augmentation of their maintenance; and that if the house could find any method by which her benevolent intentions to the poor clergy might be rendered more effectual, it would be acceptable to her majesty. The commons immediately brought in a bill, enabling her to alienate this branch of the revenue, and to create a corporation by charter, to direct the application of it. Addresses of thanks from all the clergy of England, were presented to the queen for her gracious bounty; but very little regard was paid to Dr. Burnet, bishop of Sarum; though the queen declared that benevolent and pious prelate to be the author of the project; he being generally hated by the clergy for being a Scotchman and a whig. About the same time some changes were made in the ministry, particularly Robert Harley was made secretary of state, in the room of the earl of Nottingham, and Henry St. John secretary of war; both of them politic intriguing men, but at that time generally esteemed whigs.

Nothing

Nothing could be more deplorable than the situation to which the emperor was reduced in the beginning of the year 1704. The malecontents of Hungary had rendered themselves formidable by their success. At the same time the elector of Bavaria possessed all the places on the Danube as far as Passau, and even threatened the city of Vienna, which must have been infallibly lost, had the Hungarians and Bavarians joined and acted in concert. While the empire was in this situation, the duke of Marlborough formed a scheme for its deliverance, which was approved by the queen; and the Dutch were persuaded by his grace to come into it. In pursuance of this scheme, the duke marched with surprizing expedition towards the Danube; and after an obstinate resistance forced the enemy's intrenchments at Schellenberg, leaving 6000 men dead on the field of battle, and taking sixteen pieces of cannon, thirteen pair of colours, with all the tents and baggage. The enemy fled with the utmost terror to Donawert and the Danube; but the next day the Bavarian garrison abandoned Donawert, of which the confederates took immediate possession; while the elector passed the Danube to prevent the victors cutting off his retreat into his own country. The confederates having crossed that river on several bridges of pontoons, a detachment was sent to take post in the country of the elector, who had retired under the cannon of Augsburg.

The allies advanced within a league of that city, and finding the elector of Bavaria too se-

curely posted under the cannon of Augsburg to be attacked with any prospect of success, they encamped in such a manner as to cut off all communication between him and his dominions. Marlborough then proposed very advantageous terms of peace, on condition of his abandoning the French; and his subjects pressed him to comply, rather than expose his country to ruin and desolation. A negotiation was therefore begun; but when he appeared ready to sign the articles, hearing that marshal Tallard was marching with a great body of forces to join him, he declared, that he thought himself obliged, in honour, to continue firm in his alliance. The allies, exasperated at this disappointment, ravaged Bavaria. The duke soon after removing his camp, the elector of Bavaria marched to Biberach, where he was joined by count Tallard, and they passing the Danube, encamped at Blenheim. The duke of Marlborough and prince Eugene having also joined their forces, marched up to the enemy, whom they found advantageously posted on a hill near Hockstet, their right being covered by the Danube and the village of Blenheim; their left by the village of Lutzingen, and the front by a rivulet, the banks of which were steep, and the bottom marshy. The two generals resolved to attack them immediately, and advancing into the plain on the 13th of August, ranged their forces in order of battle. The cannonading began about nine in the morning, and continued on both sides till one in the afternoon. The French and Bavarians
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EUGENE,
Prince of SAVOY.

amounted to about 60,000 men ; but the number of the confederates did not exceed 55,000 : their right was commanded by prince Eugene, and their left by the duke of Marlborough. The action was begun at noon by major-general Wilkes, with a body of English and Hessians, who having with difficulty passed the rivulet, attacked the village of Blenheim with great vigour ; but were repulsed after three successive attempts. Mean while the troops in the center, and part of the right wing, passed the rivulet on planks in different places ; and formed on the other side without molestation. They were, however, at length charged by the French horse with such impetuosity, and so terribly gauled in flank by the troops posted at Blenheim, that they fell into disorder, and part of them repassed the rivulet ; but a reinforcement of dragoons coming up, the French cavalry were, in their turn, broken, and driven to the very hedges of the village of Blenheim. The left wing of the confederates being now formed, ascended the hill in a firm compact body, and charged the enemy's horse, which could no longer stand their ground, but rallied several times as they gave way. Tallard now ordered ten battalions to fill up the intervals of his cavalry, which the duke observing, sent three battalions of the troops of Zell, to sustain his horse. Nevertheless, the line was a little disordered by the prodigious fire from the French infantry, and even obliged to recoil about sixty paces ; but advancing to the charge with redoubled ardour, routed the French horse ;

horse; and their battalions being thus abandoned, were cut in pieces. Tallard rallied his broken cavalry behind some tents that were still standing; but they being vigorously attacked in flank, were totally defeated. Part of them endeavoured to gain a bridge they had thrown over the Danube, between Hockstet and Blenheim; but were so closely pursued, that those who escaped the slaughter, threw themselves into the river, where they were drowned. Tallard being surrounded, was taken prisoner, together with the marquis de Montperoux, general of the horse, three major-generals, and many other officers of distinction.

While the left wing of the allies was thus successful, the center, overpowered by numbers, was repulsed; till the duke of Marlborough in person brought up some fresh squadrons from the body of reserve, and obliged the enemy to retire. Prince Eugene had, by this time, obliged the left wing to give ground, after having seen his cavalry, in which his chief strength seemed to lie, three times repulsed. Marlborough had no sooner defeated the right wing, than he prepared to reinforce the prince, when he understood that his highness had no occasion for assistance, he having put the enemy to flight. The confederates were now masters of the field of battle, and surrounded the village of Blenheim, in which were posted twenty seven battalions and twelve squadrons, which being cut off from all communication with the rest of their army, laid down their arms,

arms, delivered their standards and colours, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

This was one of the most glorious and complete victories that was ever obtained. The French and Bavarians left 10,000 dead on the field of battle: the greatest part of thirty squadrons of horse and dragoons perished in the Danube: 13,000 were made prisoners; 100 pieces of cannon were taken, with 24 mortars; 129 colours, 171 standards, 17 pair of kettle-drums, 3600 tents, 34 coaches, 15 barrels, and eight casks filled with silver, and 300 loaded mules. Of the allies, about 4500 were slain, and about 8000 wounded or taken. After this, Ulm, Landau, and Traerbach, were taken, and all Bavaria submitted to the conquerors. Count Tallard, and several other French officers, were brought to England, and sent to Nottingham, where they remained some years. The queen settled the manor of Woodstock upon the duke of Marlborough, where Blenheim-house was erected for him at her majesty's expence, as a monument of this glorious victory.

The arms of England were no less successful by sea. Admiral Rooke resolved to make an attempt upon Gibraltar, which was but slenderly provided with a garrison. Having sailed thither, the prince of Hesse, on the 21st of July 1704, began the attack, by landing on the isthmus, with 1800 marines, and then summoning the governor to surrender; but was answered, that he would defend the place to the last extremity. The next day the admiral
gave

gave orders for cannonading the town; and having driven the enemy from the fortifications at the south mole-head, the captains Hicks and Jumper having manned their pinnaces, entered the fortifications sword in hand. The Spaniards then sprung a mine, by which two lieutenants and about 100 men were killed or wounded. Yet the two captains took possession of a platform, and kept their ground till they were sustained by captain Whitaker, and the rest of the seamen, who having taken by storm a redoubt between the mole and the town, the governor capitulated, and the prince of Hesse entered the place, amazed at the success of this attempt.

A sufficient garrison being left with his highness; the admiral, on the 13th of August, came up with the French fleet, which lay in a line off Malaga, to the number of fifty-two great ships and twenty-four gallies, under the command of the count de Toulouse, high-admiral of France. The English fleet consisted of fifty-three ships of the line, exclusive of frigates; but were inferior to the French in number of guns and men, as well as in weight and metal. The battle began with equal fury on both sides, and continued with doubtful success till two in the afternoon, when the van of the French gave way: the battle, however, lasted till night, when the enemy bore away to leeward. During the two following days, Rooke endeavoured to renew the engagement, which the count de Toulouse declined, and at last disappeared. The loss was pretty equal
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on both sides, though not a single ship was taken or destroyed; but the honour of the day certainly remained with the English, though it was afterwards disputed by the French. Rooke now sailed for England, where he was received by the ministry and the people in general, with marks of esteem and veneration.

Philip, king of Spain, alarmed at the reduction of Gibraltar, sent the marquis de Villadarias with an army to retake it. The siege lasted four months, during which, the prince of Hesse exhibited many shining proofs of courage and abilities; and on the approach of Sir John Leake and admiral Vanderdussen, the marquis de Villadarias thought proper to abandon the enterprize.

In the year 1705, several alterations were made at court in favour of the whigs. The duke of Newcastle was made lord privy-seal, in the room of the duke of Buckingham; and some time after William Cowper was made lord-keeper, then created a peer, and had the title of lord chancellor. The parliament being dissolved on the 5th of April, there were great contests at the elections for a new one, between the parties of high and low church, though they generally went in favour of the latter.

The emperor Leopold died in the month of April, and was succeeded by his eldest son Joseph. This made little alteration in the affairs of the allies. The duke of Marlborough marched towards the Moselle, with an intention to begin the campaign with the siege of Saar-

Louis :

Louis: but the slowness of the Germans in joining him forced him to lay aside this design, and to march back in haste to the Netherlands, where he arrived time enough to save the city of Liege, which had been invested by the French. He then recovered Huy, which the French had just taken; then forced the French lines on the Maeze, and would have attacked the enemy in their camp at Parck, had he not been opposed by the deputies of the States. The duke, upon this, wrote an expostulatory letter to the States-General, complaining of their having withdrawn their confidence from him; and this letter being published at the Hague, excited murmurs among the people there; while the English being incensed at the presumption of the deputies, the States made their submissions to the duke.

When the campaign was over, the duke of Marlborough went to Vienna, where he was treated with the highest marks of distinction and cordial friendship by their Imperial Majesties, who made him a present of the lordship of Minderheim in Swabia, and erected it into a principality. In his return, he visited the courts of Berlin and Hanover, where he was received with that extraordinary respect due to his character.

The most eminent achievement of this summer was the reduction of Barcelona, by the earl of Peterborough and Sir Cloudesley Shovel, who arrived in the bay of Barcelona on the 22d of August. The people were now so well disposed to favour king Charles, that on his



*MORDAUNT, EARL
of PETERBOROUGH.*

his landing he was received with the acclamations of an infinite multitude from the neighbouring towns and villages. The inhabitants of Barcelona were also well affected to the house of Austria, but were over-awed by the garrison, which consisted of 5000 men. The earl of Peterborough began with the attack of the fort of Montjuic, situated on a hill that commanded the city. The out-works were taken by storm, with the loss of the gallant prince of Hesse, who was shot through the body: but the earl of Peterborough bombarding the body of the fort, a shell fell into the magazine of powder, and blew it up, together with the governor and some of the best officers; upon which the garrison surrendered. The English general then erected his batteries against the town; and these, with the bomb-ketches, made such execution, that the governor capitulated in a few days, and Charles entered the city in triumph on the 4th of October. All the other places in Catalonia, except Roses, declared for him; so that the largest and richest province of Spain was conquered by an army scarce double the number of the garrison of Barcelona; and soon after almost the whole kingdom of Valencia submitted to him.

The new parliament met on the 25th of October; and in this session, great debates arose about the danger of the church, which had been the cry in the reign of king William; and was now industriously revived by the Tories, in opposition to the queen's whig ministry: but it was voted, that the church was not
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in danger. An act was passed for the farther security of the Protestant succession, by which a regency was appointed to continue the government in the name of the queen's successor, till the princess Sophia or her son should arrive in the kingdom.

The duke of Marlborough repaired to Holland at the latter end of April 1706; and having conferred with the States General, assembled the army, which amounted to seventy-four battalions of foot, and a hundred and twenty-three squadrons of horse and dragoons, well furnished with artillery and pontoons. The court of France being informed, that the Danish and Prussian troops had not yet joined the confederates, ordered the elector of Bavaria and the marshal de Villeroy to attack them before the junction could be effected. In pursuance of this order, they posted themselves at Tirlemont, being much superior in number to the allied army. On Whitsunday, early in the morning, the duke of Marlborough advanced with his army in eight columns, towards the village of Ramillies, he being by this time joined by the Danes. The next day the French general perceiving the confederates so near them, took possession of a strong camp, with the village of Ramillies nearly in the centre. The confederate army being drawn up in order of battle, the duke ordered lieutenant-general Schultze, with twelve battalions and twenty pieces of cannon, to begin the action, by attacking Ramillies, which was strongly fortified with artillery: while veldt-marshal Overkirk,

Overkirk, on the left, ordered colonel Wertmuller, with four battalions and two pieces of cannon, to dislodge the enemy's infantry from the hedges of the village of Franquenies; and both these orders were successfully executed. The Dutch and Danish horse of the left wing charged with great intrepidity and vigour, but were repulsed by the troops of the French king's household; and on their beginning to give way, Marlborough sustained them with the body of reserve and twenty squadrons drawn from the right. In the mean while he himself rallied some of the broken squadrons, in order to renew the charge, when his own horse falling, he was surrounded by the enemy, and must have been either killed or taken prisoner, had not a body of infantry come seasonably to his relief. On his remounting, a cannon-ball carried off the head of colonel Brienfield, his gentleman of the horse, while he held his stirrup. Before the reinforcement arrived, the greatest part of the French musqueteers were cut in pieces; and soon all the troops posted in Ramillies were either killed or taken prisoners. Upon this the rest of the enemy's infantry began to retreat in tolerable order, under cover of the cavalry on their left wing, which formed in three lines, between Offuz and Anderkirk; but the English horse having passed a rivulet which divided them from the enemy, fell upon them with such impetuosity, that they abandoned their foot, and were terribly slaughtered in the village of Anderkirk. The French now gave way on all sides. The cavalry fly-

ing three different ways, were so closely pursued, that very few escaped. The elector of Bavaria and the marshal de Villeroy saved themselves with the utmost difficulty. Several waggons belonging to the enemy's van-guard, breaking down in a narrow pass, prevented the baggage and artillery proceeding, and their troops desiling in order. The victorious horse being informed of this, pressed on them with such rapidity, that great numbers of the French threw down their arms and submitted. The pursuit was followed five leagues from the field of battle, and lasted till two in the morning. In short, the confederates obtained a complete victory; took the enemy's baggage and artillery, about 120 colours and standards, 600 officers, 6000 private soldiers, and about 8000 were killed or wounded. Among the slain were prince Maximilian and prince Monbason. The loss of the allies did not exceed 3000 men, among whom was prince Lewis of Hesse and Mr. Bentinck.

This victory was attended with the immediate conquest of almost all the Spanish Netherlands: the cities of Louvaine, Mechlin, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges, submitted without resistance, and acknowledged king Charles. Ostend, though it had a strong garrison, surrendered after a siege of ten days. Menin, esteemed the most finished fortification in the Low Countries, though garrisoned by 6000 men, met with the same fate: the garrison of Brendermonde surrendered themselves prisoners
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of war; and Aeth submitted on the same conditions.

Barcelona was about the same time blocked up by sea by the French fleet, under the count of Toulouse, while king Philip besieged it by land. The inhabitants, animated by the presence of king Charles, made a vigorous defence, but were so hard pressed, that he was in danger of falling into the enemy's hands: but Sir John Leake failing to his relief, the French admiral no sooner received intelligence of his approach than he retired with precipitation; and the earl of Peterborough arriving with a body of troops, Philip abandoned the siege, and retired in great disorder, leaving behind his tents, with the sick and wounded.

On the side of Portugal, the earl of Galloway, with an army of 20,000 men, undertook the siege of Alcantara, and in three days the garrison, consisting of 4000 men, were made prisoners of war. He afterwards took several other places, and even advanced to Madrid, which submitting to king Charles, he was proclaimed there. But that prince loitering away his time in Barcelona, his competitor recovered his spirits, and his army, under the duke of Berwick, received such reinforcements, as enabled him to return to Madrid; upon which the allies were obliged to retire from that city with as much haste as they had marched thither.

In Italy, the allies were as successful as in Flanders. The duke of Savoy had been reduced to the utmost extremity, and Turin, his capital, was besieged by the French. The

garrison made a noble defence, and destroyed 14,000 of the enemy during the course of the siege; but their defences were almost ruined, and their ammunition began to fail. While they were in this situation, prince Eugene, after a most difficult and surprizing march, joining the duke of Savoy, they defeated the enemy on the 7th of September, in their trenches; and having obtained a complete victory, the duke entered his capital in triumph. In this battle the French had about 5000 men slain, above 7000 taken prisoners, and lost 250 pieces of cannon, 180 mortars, an incredible quantity of ammunition, all the tents and baggage, 5000 beasts of burthen, 10,000 horses belonging to thirteen regiments of dragoons, and the mules of the commissary general, which were so richly laden, that this part of the booty alone was valued to three millions of livres. The loss of the confederates did not exceed 3000 men killed or disabled in the action, besides about the same number of the garrison which had fallen since the beginning of the siege.

This year was remarkable for beginning, and the next for completing, the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland. In pursuance of acts passed in both nations, the queen appointed thirty-one commissioners for England and as many for Scotland, to treat upon this important affair; and these commissioners, after above forty meetings at the Cock-pit, agreed upon and signed twenty-five articles of union, on the 22d of July, and these were

were approved by the queen. The Jacobites exclaimed with great heat against this union, as they foresaw, that it would extinguish all their hopes of a revolution in favour of the Pretender; and in Scotland there were such tumults, as seemed to threaten an insurrection; the people imagining, that they were going to lose their ancient beloved independency. However, the articles of union were ratified by a majority in the parliament of that kingdom, in January 1707; and afterwards an act for that purpose passed both houses in England, and received the royal assent. By these articles the two kingdoms were, on the 1st of May 1707, for ever united into one, by the name of Great Britain, to be represented by one and the same parliament held in England; in which Scotland should be represented by sixteen peers and forty-five commoners: it was also agreed, that all peers of Scotland should be peers of Great Britain, and have precedency immediately after the English peers of the like orders and degrees, at the time of the union; and before all peers of Great Britain of the like orders and degrees, who might be created after the union: the respective church governments, Episcopal in England, and Presbyterian in Scotland, were secured to both; and the Protestant succession to the united kingdoms was established.

The first parliament of Great Britain met on the 23d of October, without any new election for England; after which both houses, in an address to her majesty, declared their opinion,

that no peace could be honourable or safe, if Spain, the West Indies, or any part of the Spanish dominions, were suffered to remain under the power of the house of Bourbon; and the queen expressed the same sentiments in her answer.

Lewis XIV. had sustained such a number of successive defeats, as had drained his kingdom of people, and exhausted his treasury. The lands were uncultivated, manufactures neglected, and the people of France reduced to the greatest distress; while the allies seemed to prosper in every quarter: but, in the summer of 1707, fortune seemed to declare for the enemy. The earl of Galloway lost the battle of Almanza in Spain, in which he too hastily engaged against a much superior force. Marshal Villars made himself master of the German lines at Biehl and Stolhoffen; and would have proceeded farther, had not the elector of Hanover, with the Imperial forces, stopped his progress. In the Netherlands, the duke of Marlborough was unable to bring the French, under the duke of Vendome, to an engagement; and both sides only preserved what they had in their possession at the beginning of the campaign. A design upon Toulon, conducted by the duke of Savoy and prince Eugene, with the assistance of the confederate fleet, under Sir Cloudesley Shovel, miscarried; though they furiously bombarded the town both by sea and land. Sir Cloudesley, in his return from this expedition, was lost, with three of his best ships, on the rocks of Scilly.

At this period, secretary Harley's character incurred suspicion from the treachery of Gregg, a clerk in his office, who was defeated in carrying on a correspondence with the minister of the French king. This affair made much noise, and great discoveries were expected from him. He was condemned and executed as a traitor in 1708; but in a paper he delivered to the sheriff, he took all the guilt on himself. About the same time Harley resigned his office, as did St. John and Sir Simon Harcourt, the attorney-general.

The French king, provoked at the late attempt upon Toulon, resolved to retaliate it, by carrying the war into Great Britain, under the pretence of establishing the Pretender on the throne of his ancestors: but his real aim was to excite a revolt, which would hinder Anne from exerting herself against France on the continent. A squadron was assembled at Dunkirk, under the command of the chevalier de Fourbin, and a body of land forces embarked. The Pretender, who had assumed the name of the Chevalier de St. George, was furnished for this expedition with services of gold and silver plate, sumptuous tents, rich clothes for his life-guards, splendid liveries, and a profusion of all sorts of necessaries; and at his parting with Lewis, that prince presented him with a sword studded with valuable diamonds.

On the news of this armament, the pretender and his adherents were proclaimed traitors; and transports hired to bring over ten British battalions from Ostend. A large fleet was equipped

equipped with incredible diligence, and sailed from Deal towards Dunkirk, under the conduct of Sir John Leake, Sir George Byng, and lord Dursley. The British fleet being forced from their station by the severity of the weather, the French squadron set sail; and Sir George Byng having received advice of their departure, gave chase to the enemy, and sailed directly to the Frith of Edinburgh, where he arrived almost as soon as the enemy, who, intimidated at his approach, took the advantage of a land-breeze, and bore away with all their sails. The English admiral still followed them, and took one of their ships. At night Fourbin altered his course; and the next day they were out of the reach of the English squadron. The pretender desired they would proceed to the northward, and land him at Inverness; but the wind changing to the northward, the chevalier returned to Dunkirk, after having been tossed about a whole month in very tempestuous weather.

The French king, not discouraged by the miscarriage of his projected invasion, resolved to improve the advantages he had gained on the continent during the last campaign; and being before-hand with the allies, his troops surprized Ghent, and Bruges surrendered. On the 9th of July the dukes of Burgundy and Vendôme invested Oudenarde. But Marlborough and Eugene coming up with them two days after, a bloody battle ensued, in which the French were totally routed. About 3000 of their men were slain on the field of battle, 2000 deserted,

ed, and about 7000 were taken prisoners, including a great number of officers, together with ten pieces of cannon, above 100 standards and colours, and 4000 horses: while the loss of the allies did not amount to 2000 men. In this engagement, his late majesty, then the electoral prince of Hanover, charged at the head of Bulan's dragoons with great intrepidity: his horse was shot under him, and colonel Lusky killed by his side.

The confederates, after levelling the French lines, invested Lisle on the 13th of August. This was not only the strongest town in Flanders, but was provided with all necessaries, and with stores of ammunition, while the garrison was reinforced by twenty-one battalions of the best troops of France, commanded by marshal de Boufflers in person. Prince Eugene commanded at the siege, and the duke of Marlborough covered it with the rest of the army. The dukes of Burgundy and Vendome being now joined by the duke of Berwick, resolved, if possible, to relieve the place, and made several marches and counter-marches for that purpose. Marlborough being apprized of their intention, marched out of his lines to give them battle; but the enemy declined an engagement, and the allies returned to their camp, which they fortified with an intrenchment. On the 7th of September, the besiegers took the counterscarp of Lisle by assault, after an obstinate action, in which they lost 1000 men. The French generals continued to hover about the camp of the confederates, which they

they even cannonaded. Marlborough again offered them battle in vain. On the 23d of September the tenaille was stormed, and a lodgment made along the covered way. On the 23d of October the town surrendered, and the marshal de Boufflers retired into the citadel with the remains of his garrison; but on the 10th of December the citadel surrendered. What facilitated its reduction was the famous battle of Wynendale, fought by major-general Webb, who, with 6000 men, guarded a convoy from Ostend, but was attacked by the count de la Motte with about 22,000; when Webb, after a very warm action, which lasted two hours, obliged them to retire in the utmost confusion, after leaving 6000 men killed upon the field of battle: yet the loss of the allies did not exceed 912 officers and soldiers. After this glorious battle Ghent and Bruges was recovered.

The campaign in Catalonia was no less successful. Sir John Leake took Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, upon which the whole island submitted. Afterwards general Stanhope, with a body of land forces, assisted by a fleet commanded by Sir John Leake, invested Port Mahon, which in three days capitulated; and the whole island of Minorca submitted to the English government.

While the arms of Great Britain were thus attended with success, the people were afflicted with the melancholy loss of prince George of Denmark, who died at Kensington of an asthma and dropsy, on the 28th of October. He was
a prince



*GEORGE PRINCE
of DENMARK.*

a prince of great justice and humanity; a sincere friend to the revolution, and zealously attached to the Protestant interest, and to that of Great Britain. He was of an amiable character, and lived in the most perfect harmony and affection with his royal consort, the queen, who was inconsolable for his loss.

The French king was, by this time, reduced to such a state of humiliation, that, in the beginning of the year 1709, he made some overtures of peace, in consequence of which a treaty was begun at the Hague, and forty preliminary articles were agreed upon; but as by one of them king Philip was to quit the Spanish dominions, the French court refused their consent, and after offering the duke of Marlborough a large sum of money for his interest in procuring a peace, which he generously rejected; the treaty came to nothing, and the generals of the confederates resolved to open the campaign without farther delay.

The allies began with the siege of Tournay, which they invested on the 27th of June. The garrison did not exceed twelve battalions and four squadrons of dragoons; but the place was so strong both by art and nature, and Surville, the governor, was such an excellent officer, that the siege was protracted, and cost a great number of men. As the besiegers proceeded by way of sap, the miners frequently met those of the enemy under ground, and fought with bayonet and pistol. Volunteers on both sides rushed with intrepidity to those subterraneous combats, in the midst of mines and counter-mines
ready

ready primed for explosion, which were sometimes kindled by accident, and sometimes sprung by design; so that many were stifled below, while multitudes were blown into the air. The allies having, on the 28th of July, made a considerable breach, the town was surrendered upon conditions, and the garrison retired into the citadel, which capitulated on the 30th.

Soon after the French army, amounting to 120,000 men, commanded by marshal Villars, posted themselves in the woods near Malplaquet; fortified their camp with triple intrenchments, and barricadoed it in such a manner, that it appeared to be quite inaccessible. The confederates, commanded by the duke of Marlborough, encamped at a small distance, and on the 11th of September, early in the morning, being favoured by a thick fog, erected batteries in the centre and on each wing. About eight o'clock the weather clearing up, the attack began, and the battle was maintained with the most desperate courage on both sides. The allies, after being several times repulsed, at length drove the French from their intrenchments, chiefly by the bravery of the prince of Orange, who had two horses killed under him, and by the valour of the English, headed by general Withers, the earl of Orkney, the duke of Argyle, and other young noblemen: but the French fought with such fury, that the victory cost the allies near 18,000 men.

While the brave Marlborough was thus pursuing his conquests in Flanders, and supporting

ing the glory of the English arms against the natural enemy of Britain, a party was secretly forming against him at home, chiefly by Harley and St. John. Harley had, by means of Mrs. Hill, afterwards Mrs. Masham, private access to the queen; and by her and his own intrigues, gave her majesty an ill opinion of the whigs, and particularly of the duke and dutchess of Marlborough; in order to put a stop to the progress of his glory, and to the humiliation of France. Mrs. Masham was related to the dutchess, who had introduced her into the queen's service; and she, by Harley's instructions, insinuated herself into her majesty's favour, and wholly engrossing the royal ear, ungenerously supplanted her benefactress. This paved the way for Harley and his associates, to advance themselves, by undermining the brave Marlborough and his friends; and to this the following circumstance did not a little contribute.

On the 5th of November Dr. Sacheverel, a clergyman of the most bigoted principles, preached a furious sermon against the whigs, before the lord-mayor at St. Paul's, which he printed under the title of "The perils of false brethren, both in church and state." In this sermon he strenuously asserted the high-church notions of hereditary right, passive obedience, and non-resistance; gave an odious turn to the revolution, the Protestant succession, the union, and the toleration granted to dissenters; recommended the persecution of them, and insinuated, that the church was in danger. It is

impossible to express the firmness this raised in the nation. He was impeached by the commons at the bar of the upper house, and a day appointed for trying him before the lords at Westminster-hall. Mean while the tories, who all approved his principles, were as violent in his defence, as the parliament in his prosecution. The eyes of the whole kingdom were turned upon this extraordinary trial, and the queen was every day present as a private spectator. This trial lasted several days, and vast multitudes constantly attended him as he went to the hall, and abused all that would not pull off their hats to him, and cry out for the church. They proceeded so far as to demolish several meeting-houses, and to make bonfires of the materials, with loud huzzas of "High Church and Sacheverel." The queen herself favoured his cause, as it contributed to the extension of her prerogative. On the 10th of March 1710, he was found guilty by the lords, and sentenced not to preach for three years, and his sermon to be burned by the common hangman. The lenity of this sentence was considered by the tories as a victory. Indeed, if Harley and his confederates were not at the bottom of this affair, they certainly made their advantage of it: for, by their thus artfully applying to the queen's passion for the church, she soon became the easy property of the tories, or rather of those who wanted to rule by their means.

In the beginning of 1710, the French king made fresh offers of peace, which produced the treaty

treaty at Gertruydenburg; but this, like the former, appears to have been only designed to amuse and divide the allies. It was spun out till July, and then broke off, the French expecting more advantageous terms from the change of the ministry in England, which they foresaw would soon take place. Mean while the confederates did not retard the operations of the campaign; for the confederates under the duke of Marlborough and prince Eugene, took Doway, Bethune, St. Venant, and Aire.

In Spain, the horse and dragoons in the army of king Charles, commanded by general Stanhope, attacked the whole cavalry of the enemy at Almenara. Stanhope charged in person, and with his own hand slew general Amessaga, who commanded the guards of Philip. The Spanish horse were routed, together with nine battalions that escaped by favour of the darkness; and the main body of the army retired with precipitation to Lerida. General Starremberg pursued them to Saragossa, and an engagement ensuing, on the 9th of August, the enemy were totally defeated: 5000 of their men were killed, 7000 taken, with all their artillery, and a great number of colours and standards. King Charles entered Saragossa in triumph, and soon after proceeded to Madrid; but in a little time was obliged to retire from thence, his rival becoming superior by fresh reinforcements.

After this, general Stanhope, with eight English battalions and as many squadrons, being quartered in the little town of Brihuega,

was suddenly surrounded by the whole Spanish army, under the duke of Vendome, and, after a short but vigorous resistance, was obliged to surrender himself and his troops prisoners of war. This was followed by an obstinate battle near Villaviciosa ; in which Staremborg's left wing was utterly defeated ; but the victors, instead of following the blow, began to plunder the baggage, while Staremborg, with his right wing, fought their left with surprizing resolution till night, when the enemy retired in disorder, leaving him master of the field of battle, and of all their artillery. Six thousand of the enemy were killed on the spot ; but the allies had suffered so severely, that Staremborg, ordering his cannon to be nailed up, marched to Saragossa, and from thence retired into Catalonia.

These misfortunes gave great satisfaction to the enemies of the ministry in England, where the spirit raised by Sacheverel produced a number of addresses in favour of passive obedience and non-resistance ; and at the same time some counter-addresses were presented by the whigs, extolling the revolution. The queen began now publicly to express her attachment to the tories ; the earl of Sunderland, son-in-law to the duke of Marlborough, was removed from his office of secretary of state : the earl of Godolphin, whose son had married the duke's eldest daughter, was, soon after, dismissed from his post of lord high-treasurer. On the other hand, Mr. Harley was made a commissioner of the treasury ; Mr. St. John, secretary of state, in the room of Mr. Boyle ; Sir Simon Harcourt,

court, lord-keeper, in the room of lord-chancellor Cowper; and the earl of Rochester, president of the council. These alterations were soon followed by others, till there was not one whig left in any office of state, except the duke of Marlborough, who, for a short time, retained his employments, unsupported and alone; an object of envy and factious reproach. That the triumph of the tories might be complete, the queen dissolved the whig parliament, after such precautions were taken as could not fail to influence the new election in favour of the other party.

The tories now carried all before them in the elections: for the cry of High Church and Sacheverel, was made to influence the passions of the vulgar. Sacheverel being presented to a benefice in North Wales, went thither in procession, with all the pomp and magnificence of a sovereign prince. He was sumptuously entertained by the university of Oxford: he was received in several towns by the magistrates of the corporation in their formalities, and often attended by a body of 1000 horse. At Bridgenorth he was met by Mr. Creswell at the head of 4000 horse and the same number of persons on foot, wearing white cockades, edged with gold, with three leaves of gilt-laurel. The hedges were, for two miles, dressed with garlands of flowers, and lined with people; and the steeples covered with flags and streamers. Nothing was heard but High Church and Sacheverel; and the clergy, actuated by a wild spirit of enthusiasm, in favour of passive

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obedience,

obedience, seemed to spread a contagion thro' all ranks and degrees of people.

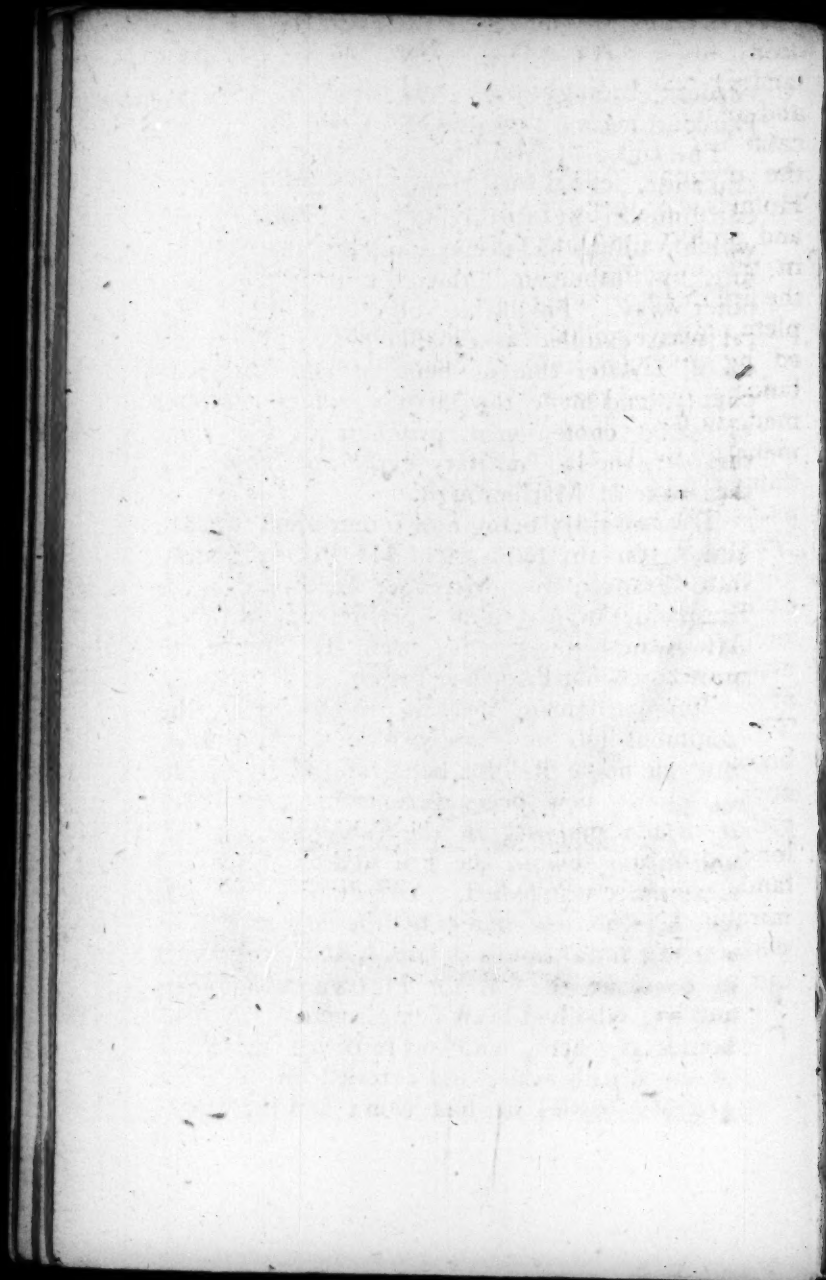
Soon after, the marquis of Guiscard, a French Papist, being seized for high-treason, and brought before a committee of the council, appeared like a mad-man; and advancing to Mr. Harley, stabbed him in the breast with a pen-knife; and its being prevented from entering the cavity, by striking upon the bone, he repeated the blow with such force, that the chancellor of the exchequer fell to the ground. Secretary St. John seeing him fall, cried out, "The villain has killed Mr. Harley," and drew his sword. Several other members followed his example, and wounded Guiscard in several places, while he made a desperate defence, till he was overpowered by the messengers and servants, and conveyed from the council-chamber, which he had filled with terror, tumult, and confusion. He afterwards died in Newgate of the wounds and bruises he had received in the scuffle, but Mr. Harley recovered.

In April 1711, died the emperor Joseph of the small-pox, without male-issue; and his brother Charles, who had struggled for the crown of Spain, was chosen emperor in October, by the name of Charles VI.

Mr. Harley now introduced and perfected his project for satisfying the public debts, by incorporating a company to trade to the South-Seas; and in May he was created earl of Oxford and Mortimer, and constituted lord high-treasurer. Mr. St. John was afterwards created viscount



*HARLEY EARL of
OXFORD.*



viscount Bolingbroke; and the lord-keeper Harcourt made a peer and lord-chancellor.

The duke of Marlborough being not yet laid aside, set out for Holland, and distinguished himself by surprizing the French lines, which Villars had deemed impregnable, having first, by stratagem, drawn off the enemy another way. This stroke of the English general was extolled as a master-piece of military skill. After this he besieged and took Bouchain, and made the garrison, which consisted of 6000 chosen men, prisoners of war; and this was the last military exploit performed by the duke of Marlborough.

The ministry being now intent upon a peace almost on any terms, sent Mr. Prior privately into France; and Mesnager coming over to England, signed some preliminary articles. Afterwards Bolingbroke went to France, to prosecute what Prior had begun.

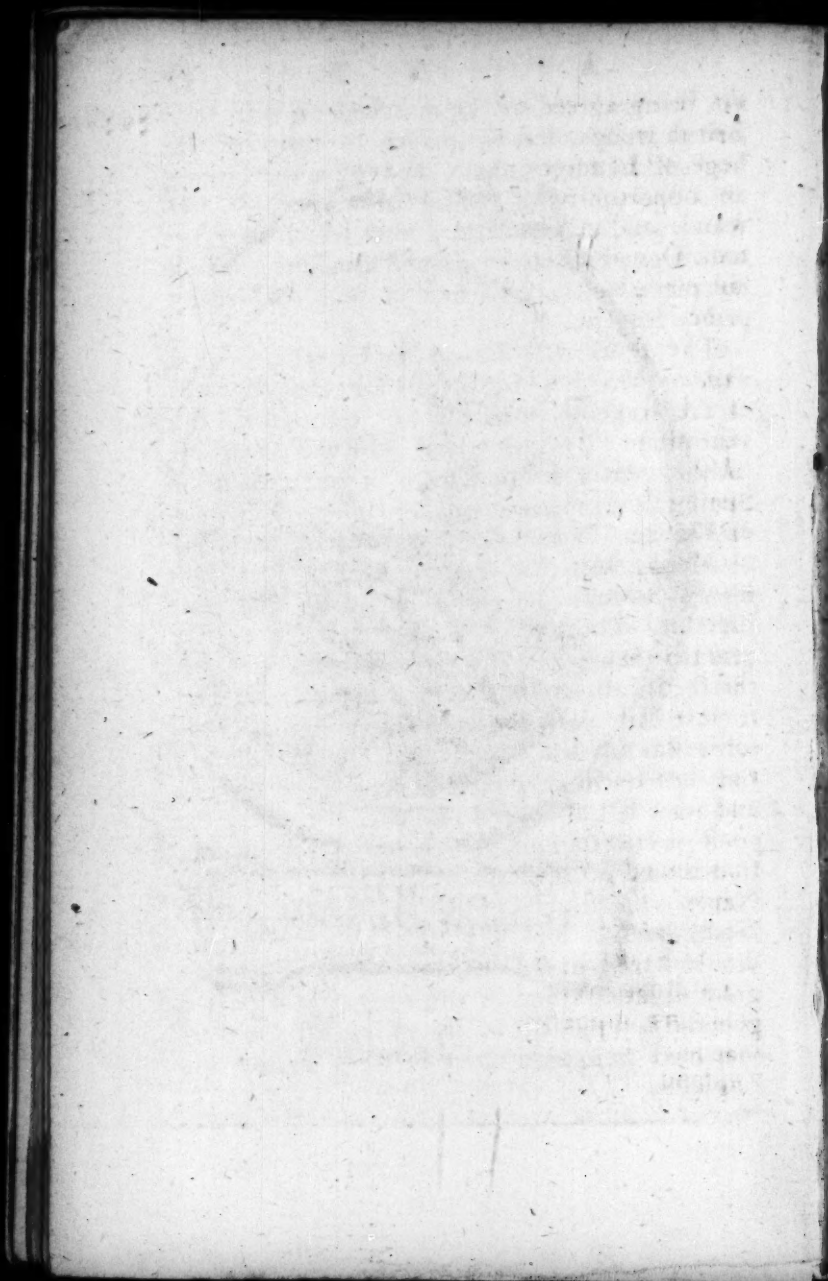
The parliament meeting in December, the commons fell in entirely with the ministry; but the house of lords being not likely to do so, twelve new peers were created, in order to form a majority in the minister's favour; and in this session, the bill against occasional conformity was passed. The duke of Marlborough, who was hated by the new ministers, was first industriously defamed, as if he wanted to continue the war for his own advantage; and he, who had been complimented by both houses as a hero, who had retrieved the glory of the British arms, and extolled for the many glorious battles he had won; and the nume-

rous towns he had taken ; for his checking the pride and ambition of France, his securing the liberty of Europe, and carrying victory with him wherever he went, was now, for the sake of an infamous peace, in which all the glory he had gained, was to be sacrificed to private views, was basely ridiculed and reviled in public libels and private conversation : even his courage was called in question ; and this consummate general, who had struck terror thro' France, and was on the point of reducing that nation to a state in which it could no longer be a formidable enemy to England, was represented as the lowest of mankind, and attacked in parliament upon frivolous pretences of avarice, ambition, and misconduct, which they were unable to make good. This, however, gave the queen a handle to remove him, on the 30th of December ; and he was succeeded in the command of the forces by the duke of Ormond, who was entirely disposed to comply with the pacific measures of the ministers. Upon which, Marlborough obtaining leave to go abroad, left the kingdom, and did not return till the day on which the queen died.

The conferences for negotiating a peace began at Utrecht in the beginning of the year 1712 ; and while these were carrying on, the campaign was opened. Prince Eugene had a fair opportunity of attacking the enemy with advantage ; but how was he surprized when the duke of Ormond told him, that he had no orders to act offensively ! Soon after, he proposed to the prince a cessation of arms, which
not



JAMES,
Duke of ORMOND.



not being agreed to, he marched off with the British troops, left the prince to carry on the siege of Landrecy alone, and gave the French an opportunity of taking Montagne, St. Amand, and Marchienne; after which they retook Doway, Bouchaen, and Quesnoy; which last place had, a little before, been reduced by prince Eugene.

The peace was signed at Utrecht, on the 31st of March 1713, by all but the ministers of the emperor, who did not come in till the year after. By this peace, Philip V. was left in the peaceable possession of the crown of Spain; but renounced all his right to the crown of France. The duke of Savoy had the island of Sicily, with the title of king. The elector of Bavaria had the same title, with the island of Sardinia. The Dutch had a barrier granted them; and the English were to have the fortifications of Dunkirk demolished, and to have Gibraltar, the island of Minorca, Hudson's Bay, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland; but the French kept possession of Cape Breton, and were left at liberty to dry fish upon the coast of Newfoundland. It was also stipulated, that the emperor should possess the kingdom of Naples, the dutchy of Milan, and the Spanish Netherlands; and that the king of Prussia should have Upper Gueldres. This peace gave great dissatisfaction to the whigs; and to it is generally supposed to be owing all the wars that have happened since between France and England.

The

The parliament having continued almost three years, was dissolved on the 8th of August; a new one met in February following; and soon after a bill was brought in to prevent the growth of schism; by which all dissenters were, under the penalty of three months imprisonment, prohibited from teaching in schools and academies; and forbid to teach any other catechism besides that of the church of England. But though this persecuting statute was opposed in both houses with great spirit, it made its way through them, and received the royal assent; but the queen dying on the very day when it was to have taken place, this cruel law, so destructive to religious liberty, and so absurd, as proceeding from a church which pretends not to infallibility, was not put in execution.

About this time died the princess Sophia, dutchess dowager of Hanover, in the 84th year of her age. She was the fourth and youngest daughter of Frederick, elector Palatine, king of Bohemia, and Elizabeth, daughter of James I. king of England. She had an excellent capacity, which was finely cultivated, and was one of the most accomplished princesses of the age in which she lived. By her death, the right of succession to the British crown devolved upon the elector, her son.

After the peace of Utrecht, there was nothing but quarrels and contentions among the ministers. Bolingbroke, unable to bear the thoughts of being a second in the administration, undermined the treasurer; and to gratify his



**ST JOHN, Lord
BOLINBROKE.**

his ambition, strove to push matters to extremity against the whigs; and was even suspected of designs against the Protestant succession, in favour of the Pretender. The council-chamber was now turned into a theatre of the most bitter altercations. Oxford advised a reconciliation with the whigs, whose resentment he now began to fear, especially as the queen's health appeared greatly impaired; and her disorder was visibly increased by these open quarrels, which were rudely carried on even in her presence: but Bolingbroke, though he disbelieved the doctrines of Christianity, yet as he outwardly professed a warm zeal for the church; an extraordinary bitterness against all who dissented from it; and flattered the queen, had the good fortune to prevail; and lord Oxford, the treasurer, was removed from his employment; upon which he retired, meditating schemes of revenge, or new projects for his future re-establishment. His fall was so sudden and so unexpected, that no plan was formed for supplying the vacancy occasioned by his disgrace. The court was in the utmost confusion; and the queen being no longer able to support the burthen of government, sunk into a state of insensibility, and thus found a refuge from her anxiety in lethargic slumbers. Every method was tried to rouse her from this state, but in vain; her physicians despairing of her life, the privy council assembled, when the dukes of Somerset and Argyle being informed of the desperate state in which she lay, entered that assembly without being summoned. The members

bers were surprized at their appearance ; but the duke of Shrewsbury thanking them for their readiness to give their assistance at such a critical juncture, desired them to take their places. All the necessary precautions were now taken for securing the succession in the house of Hanover ; and these noblemen sent orders to the heralds at arms, and to a troop of life-guards, to be in readiness, in order to proclaim the elector of Hanover king of Great Britain.

On the 30th of July the queen appearing somewhat better, rose from her bed about eight in the morning ; and, walking a little about her chamber, cast her eyes on the clock, and continued to gaze upon it for some time. One of the ladies in waiting begged to know what she saw there more than usual, to which the queen only answered, by turning her eyes upon her with a dying look. Soon after she was seized with a fit of an apoplexy, from which she was, however, somewhat relieved by doctor Mead's assistance. She continued all night in a state of stupefaction ; but gave some signs of life between twelve and one o'clock, and expired a little after seven in the morning, on the 1st of August 1714, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign.

Queen Anne was of the middle size and well proportioned. Her hair was of a dark brown ; her face rather round than oval ; her features regular ; her complexion ruddy ; and her aspect more comely than majestic ; but her presence was engaging, and her voice clear and melodious.

dious. Neither her capacity nor her learning was remarkable: hence she was deficient in that vigour of mind necessary to preserve her from independence on her favourites. She was a virtuous, just, and pious princess; a pattern of conjugal affection and fidelity; a tender mother, a warm friend, an indulgent mistress, and a mild and merciful princess. The greatest part of her reign was glorious; and while her husband, the prince of Denmark, lived, the influence of his steadiness and good sense, made her shine with distinguished lustre: the same splendor might have continued till the close of it; but having no ill designs herself, she was easily led by her favourites, who made an ill use of her confidence, and, at her death, were reviving the persecutions of former reigns, and throwing every thing into confusion. In her ended the line of the Stuarts, a family whose misfortunes and misconduct are not to be paralleled in history.

THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND.



BOOK IX.

From the Accession of the House of
Hanover, to the Dissolution of the
Parliament in MDCC LXXIV.

CHAP. I.

GEORGE I.

*He is proclaimed King. Bolingbroke disgraced.
George arrives in England. The Tories ex-
clusively excluded from the Royal Favour. Dis-
putes among the Clergy. A Parliament assem-
bled. A total Eclipse of the Sun. Boling-
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GEORGE I.

broke and Ormond being impeached, leave the Kingdom. The Riot Act passed. A Rebellion in England and Scotland, with the Battles of Preston and Dumblain. The Pretender arrives in Scotland; but soon flies back to France. The hard Frost. The Bill for a Septennial Parliament passed. The Mug-Houses. Charles XII. of Sweden, intends to invade England. The earl of Oxford arraigned and acquitted. The Prince of Wales forbid to come to Court. Dr. Hoadley's controversy. The Quadruple Alliance. A great Victory obtained over the Spanish Fleet. The Acts against occasional Conformity, and Schisms repealed. Spain makes an unsuccessful Attempt to invade Great Britain. The English take Vigo and Pont-a-Vedre. The Irish House of Peers rendered subordinate to that of England. The South Sea Scheme. Counsellor Lyster executed, and Dr. Atterbury banished for an intended Rebellion. Abuses in the Court of Chancery. Admiral Hosier sent to intercept the Spanish Galleons. Gibraltar besieged. The King's Death and Character.

WE are now entering on the reigns of the princes of the House of Hanover, who also owe their crowns not to hereditary right, but to the choice of a free and brave people. A title more noble and more honourable to the sovereign than all the pride of royal ancestry, or the fraudulent claims of conquest. They were chosen to be the guardians of the laws, the patrons of liberty, and the fathers of

a free and affectionate people. Their right to the throne is founded on that liberty they were called to preserve: on that liberty which is the undoubted right of every subject, and while the sovereign glories in being its protector, his throne will be fixed on a foundation as solid as a rock of adamant.

The Jacobites had long flattered themselves with the hopes of seeing the succession altered, and the Pretender placed on the throne, by the intrigues of Oxford and Bolingbroke: but the premature death of the queen at once blasted all their expectations; and their confusion was completed by the diligence and activity of the lords justices, who had been expressly appointed by act of parliament, to administer the government till the arrival of the successor. Hence they found themselves without any leader able to give consistency to their designs, and force to their counsels. They therefore found nothing so eligible as silence and submission, resting their hopes on the assistance of France, and the vigour and activity of the Pretender.

Dr. Tennison, archbishop of Canterbury, no sooner heard of the queen's death, than he went to court with two other of the principal of the lords justices, Simon lord Harcourt, lord-chancellor, and John Sheffield, duke of Buckinghamshire; and produced an instrument, wherein the following lords had been nominated by his electoral highness to the regency: the dukes of Shrewsbury, Somerset, Bolton, Devonshire, Kent, Argyle, Montrose, and Roxborough; the earls of Pembroke, Anglesea,

glesea, Carlisle, Nottingham, Abbingdon, Scarborough, and Oxford; lord viscount Townshend, lord Hallifax, and lord Cowper. Upon this orders were immediately issued for proclaiming king George in England, Scotland, and Ireland; which was performed the same day in London and Westminster. The regency then appointed the earl of Dorset to set out for Hanover with the news of his majesty's accession, and to attend him in his journey to England. They sent the general officers, in whom they could confide, to their respective posts; reinforced the garrison of Portsmouth, and appointed Mr. Addison, their secretary, in the room of Bolingbroke, who was obliged to stand at the door of the council-chamber with his bag and papers, and underwent every species of mortification. Every thing contributed to secure the succession; and even the duke of Marlborough's arrival in England on the day of the queen's death, gave real joy to all the friends of the Protestant succession.

The parliament being continued after the queen's demise, pursuant to an act for that purpose, met in the afternoon of the day she died, though it was Sunday; and, four days after, the lord-chancellor, in the name of the regents, made a speech to both houses; upon which the lords and commons agreed upon addresses of condolence for the death of the queen, and congratulation for his majesty's accession, promising to support his undoubted right to the imperial crown of these realms against the Pre-

tender, and all other persons whatsoever; and desiring his speedy presence among them. These addresses were transmitted to his majesty, who, in his answer, promised to make it his constant care to preserve their religion, laws, and liberties inviolable; and to advance the honour and prosperity of his kingdoms.

On the 28th of August Mr. Murray arrived express from Hanover, with several orders for the lords regent; particularly one for removing Bolingbroke from his post of secretary of state. Upon which the duke of Shrewsbury and Somerset, with the lord Cowper, three of the lords regents, took the seals from him, and locked and sealed up all the doors of his office. Soon after the lord viscount Townshend was appointed to succeed him.

On the 16th of September the king embarked for England, under the convoy of a squadron of British and Dutch men of war, and the next day arrived at the Hope. On the 18th he landed at Greenwich, where he was received by the duke of Northumberland and the lords of the regency; and walked from the landing-place to his house in the park, accompanied by a great number of the nobility and other persons of distinction, who, on their approach, had the honour to kiss his hand. Many were honoured with particular marks of respect; but the duke of Ormond, and others concerned in the late measures, were coldly received, and the next day his grace was removed from his office of captain-general, which was conferred on the duke of Marlborough. On the 20th his

his majesty, attended by the prince, and above 200 coaches and six of the nobility and gentry, made a public entry through the city to St. James's, in a magnificent procession, amidst innumerable crouds of people, and the loudest acclamations of joy. The king was now congratulated on his accession, in addresses from the two universities, and all the cities and corporations in the kingdom. He immediately declared in council his firm resolution to support and maintain the churches of England and Scotland, as by law established. This, he said, he was of opinion, might be effectually done without in the least impairing the toleration allowed by law to Protestant dissenters, so agreeable to Christian charity, and so necessary to the trade and riches of this kingdom.

The prince royal, who came over with his father, was now declared prince of Wales; and several changes were made in the ministry, which were soon followed by others, particularly lord Cowper was again made lord-chancellor; the earl of Nottingham, president of the council; the earl of Wharton, lord privy-seal; the duke of Devonshire, lord steward of the household; the earl of Sunderland, lord-lieutenant of Ireland; lord Townshend and Mr. Stanhope, secretaries of state; the duke of Somerset, master of the horse; the duke of Argyle, general and commander in chief of the forces in Scotland; William Pulteney, secretary of war; and Robert Walpole, master-general of the army. On the 29th of September his majesty dissolved the privy-council, and appointed

appointed a new one; and soon after there were new commissioners for the treasury and admiralty: Charles lord Hallifax was made first-commissioner of the treasury; Sir Richard Onslow, chancellor of the exchequer; Edward, earl of Orford, first-commissioner of the admiralty; and John Aislabie, treasurer of the navy. Thus a total change was produced in all the offices of honour and profit; and none but the whigs admitted into any share of the king's confidence.

The princess of Wales, with her two eldest daughters, the princesses Anne and Amelia, arrived in England on the 11th of October; and the princess Caroline came over some time after. The king was crowned with the usual solemnity on the 20th of October; previous to which were several other promotions and creations. Upon this occasion, there were great demonstrations of joy throughout the kingdom; but the dissatisfaction of the tories, on their being deprived of the places of trust and profit, soon shewed itself, by their reviving the clamour of the church's being in danger; and great tumults were raised in different parts of the kingdom, where the party-cry was, "Down with the whigs! Sacheverel for ever!" London itself was soon infested with these tumults; and many seditious pamphlets were dispersed among the people. These disorders were encouraged by some clergymen, who were too much infatuated with Sacheverel's spirit and principles. Hence breaking of windows and pulling down of meeting-houses were again practised,

practised, as at the beginning of Sacheverel's mobs.

During these commotions in favour of the Pretender, he continued only a calm spectator on the continent, sending over now and then emissaries to inflame the disturbances, to disperse his ineffectual manifestoes, and to delude the unwary. Copies of a printed address were sent to the dukes of Marlborough, Shrewsbury, Argyle, and other noblemen of the first distinction, vindicating James's pretended right to the crown, and complaining of the injustice done him, in placing a foreigner on the throne; yet he still continued to profess his steady regard for the Catholic religion; and instead of concealing his sentiments, gloried in his principles. It was the being a Papist which had chiefly contributed to drive his father from the throne; yet he seemed so infatuated, as to hope to gain a crown by the very methods by which it had been lost by his father.

But however odious Popery was to the people in general, the opinions of the dissenters, seemed to be at least equally displeasing to the high church party, who complained that under a whig administration, impiety and heresy daily gained ground; that the prelates were at once negligent of religious concerns, and warm in the pursuit of temporal blessings. The lower house of convocation had, before the queen's death, declared, that a book published by Dr. Samuel Clarke, under the title of *The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity*, contained assertions contrary to the catholic faith; and the

the disputes among the churchmen on this subject, now rose to such a height, that the ministry thought themselves obliged to interpose; and the clergy received orders to put an end to such debates, and not to intermeddle in the affairs of state. Nothing, however, can be more impolitic, or inconsistent with a religion founded on scripture, than to prohibit the clergy from free enquiry in the search of truth, which has a natural tendency to render them wiser and better. To silence their disputes, is to lead them into negligence, and is the best cloak for ignorance and error. Government, therefore, should never silence religious disputes, and never side with either disputant.

On the 15th of January, 1715, a proclamation was issued for calling a new parliament, which met on the 17th of March. The elections had, in many places, been contested with great heat, between the whigs and tories; but the former had, by far, the majority. His majesty, in his speech to both houses, observed, that the eyes of all Europe was upon them, waiting the issue of this first session; and, among other things, added, “let no unhappy
 “divisions of parties here at home, divert
 “you from pursuing the common interest of
 “your country. Let no wicked insinuations
 “disquiet the minds of my subjects. The
 “established constitution, in church and state,
 “shall be the rule of my government; the happiness, ease, and prosperity of my people,
 “shall be the chief care of my life. Those
 “who assist me, in carrying on these measures,
 “I shall

“ I shall always esteem my best friends ; and I
 “ doubt not but I shall be able, with your as-
 “ sistance, to disappoint the designs of those,
 “ who would deprive me of that blessing which
 “ I most value, the affection of my people.”

Both houses, after some warm debates, presented addresses entirely agreeable to the sentiments of the court : and it was at length agreed, that 700,000 l. should be granted for the civil list, during his majesty's life.

On the 22d of April, in the morning, was the famous total eclipse of the sun, which had not happened in this kingdom for some centuries. The darkness was, for a short time, so complete, that several stars appeared, and the birds betook themselves to roost. After the light grew fainter and fainter, as the moon advanced over the sun's disk, the eastern limb of the sun was no sooner covered, than the total darkness came on instantaneously, as when a candle is extinguished by night ; as did the light in the same manner return, when the moon left its western limb ; an extraordinary phenomenon observed by Dr. Halley, Mr. Whiston, and all our eminent astronomers.

The parliament had not sat long before they began to call the late ministers of the queen to an account. Their resolution to do this appeared by their addresses, which so alarmed lord Bolingbroke, who had taken his seat in the house of peers, that he rode post to Dover, and embarked for Calais. A secret committee was formed for considering the several papers relating to the negociation of the peace, of
 which

which Walpole was made chairman. On the report of this committee being laid before the house, Bolingbroke and Oxford were impeached of high treason, and other crimes and misdemeanors. The duke of Ormond was likewise impeached of high treason, and the earl of Strafford, one of the plenipotentiaries for the peace of Utrecht, of high crimes and misdemeanors. It was thought that Ormond's name, being used as a signal for mobs and riots, contributed to hasten his impeachment; *High church and Ormond for ever*, being now as much the cry of the Jacobite and tory-mobs, as *High-church and Sacheverel* had been before. It was, however, believed, that had he staid, he would have found favour; but taking the advice of his tory friends, he left the kingdom, and followed lord Bolingbroke to France. Upon this they were both attainted of high-treason, and a bill passed against them. The earl of Oxford, however, did not fly, but was first committed to the custody of the black rod, and then to the Tower.

Mobs and tumults becoming now more frequent, an act was passed, declaring, that if any persons, to the number of twelve, unlawfully assembled, should continue together one hour after being required to disperse by a justice of the peace, or other officer, and hearing the proclamation against riots read in public, they should be deemed guilty of felony, without benefit of the clergy. This, which is commonly called the riot-act, is still in force.

His majesty had early acquainted the parliament with the designs carried on in favour of the Pretender, both abroad and at home; and both houses addressed him to put the kingdom in a posture of defence, and to encrease the forces by sea and land. Soon after, a rebellion broke out in Scotland, headed by the earl of Mar, who, notwithstanding his having wrote a letter to the king, on his accession, in which he made professions of his loyalty; and notwithstanding his having taken the oaths to the king, and signed the proclamation, declaring him to be his lawful and rightful sovereign, he withdrew from London, and assembling three hundred of his vassals in the highlands of Scotland, proclaimed the Pretender at Castletown; and on the 6th of September, set up his standard at Brae-Mar, assuming the title of lieutenant-general of king James's forces, and exhorted the people to take arms in defence of their lawful sovereign. The rebels had great expectations from Lewis XIV. but he dying about this time, and the duke of Orleans, regent of France, being willing to cultivate a friendship with George, this was a great blow to their cause; but depending upon a rising in England, they resolved to pursue their design. In the mean time, general Whiteman, who was then in Scotland, had orders to form a camp near Stirling, and to distress the rebels as much as possible, till the duke of Argyle should arrive with a body of forces to oppose them.

In the mean time, an insurrection in the west of England, with seditious attempts at Oxford and Bath, and the seizing of Bristol and Plymouth, were happily prevented by the timely precautions of the government: for the preparations of the rebels were weak and ill-conducted; and all their designs being betrayed to the government, the beginning of every revolt in the western counties, was suppressed. But near the borders of Scotland, the earl of Derwentwater, the lord Widdrington, Mr. Foster, knight of the shire for Northumberland, and others, appeared in arms in October, and attempted to seize upon Newcastle, in which they had many friends; but found the gates shut against them, and were obliged to retire. They proclaimed the Pretender at Warkworth, Morpeth, Hexham, and other places. They were at that time all horse, and were unable to entertain any foot for want of arms; but were soon joined by several lords from the west of Scotland, who had raised some forces for the Pretender; as viscount Kenmure, who set up his standard at Loughmaben, and the earls of Nithisdale, Carnwath, and Wintoun, who joined the English rebels with their small force at Rothbury. Soon after they marched to Kelso on the borders, and joined a body of highlanders, whom Mar, after he had taken possession of the fruitful country of Fife, had found means to send over the Frith under Mackintosh. General Carpenter being sent in pursuit of the rebels, with one regiment of foot and three of dragoons, they retreated before

fore him : for they were divided in their counsels, Mackintosh being for engaging general Carpenter, whose forces were inferior in number to theirs ; but he was opposed by Forster, who had the title of general ; and Wintoun was for marching back and joining the earl of Mar. But from their usual infatuation, neither of these schemes was put in execution ; for the English desiring to march into England, this was at last agreed to : upon which 500 highlanders left the army, and returned home. The rebels, in their march, still endeavoured to avoid general Carpenter, who continued to pursue them. At length they arrived at Penrith, where the militia, though double their number, made a shew of opposing them, but instantly ran away. On the 7th of November they arrived at Lancaster, but had been joined by only a few in their march ; and having here seized six or seven pieces of cannon, they advanced forward, without either foresight or design, to Preston, where they first heard the news, that general Wills was marching at the head of six regiments of horse and a battalion of foot to attack them. Upon this they endeavoured to secure themselves in the town, by barricadoing the streets, and preparing to receive the attack of the king's troops. On the 12th of November general Wills appeared before Preston, and ordered brigadier Honeywood to attack that end of the town which leads to Wigan, and brigadier Dormer, that which leads to Lancaster. The king's troops entered the town with great resolution, but suffered

much by the rebels firing from the windows, and throwing tiles and stones from the roofs: to put a stop to this, they set fire to several houses; and having at last driven the enemy from their first barricade, this, with the arrival of general Carpenter, reduced them to the necessity of surrendering. Forster, therefore, sent colonel Oxburgh with a trumpet to propose a capitulation; but this Wills refused, alledging, that he would not treat with rebels, and that all they could expect was, to be spared from immediate slaughter; and no other terms would be granted, but their submitting to be prisoners at discretion, which they did the next day at seven in the morning; when, laying down their arms, 463 English, and above 1000 Scots were made prisoners; but many of them had found means to make their escape. In the engagement in the streets, several had been killed and wounded on both sides; but more of the king's troops than of the rebels, who principally fought under cover.

It is remarkable, that on Sunday the 13th of November, the very day when the rebels were subdued at Preston, the duke of Argyle, with about 4000 men, engaged the rebel army under the earl of Mar, consisting of about 9000, at Sheriffmuir, near Dunblain, about four miles from Stirling. Various accounts are given of the battle, which was obstinate and bloody; and both sides claimed the victory. From all the accounts, it is, however, certain, that the duke of Argyle, with the right of his army, soon routed the left of the enemy; but
while

while he was pursuing them two miles with great slaughter, the right of the rebels defeated the left of the royal army, with a terrible slaughter; so that general Witham, their commander, flying full speed to Stirling, gave out, that all was lost. The duke, on his return from the pursuit of the rebels, with that part of the army which had been victorious, instantly perceived his imprudence. Both armies continued to gaze at each other, neither of them caring to engage, and towards evening both sides drew off. It must be owned, that all the honour and advantage of the day belonged to the duke of Argyle, who, with an inferior force, had interrupted the progress of the enemy; and delay to them was equal to a defeat. The earl of Mar retreated to Perth, and his design of crossing the Forth was entirely frustrated, and never attempted afterwards. The earl of Ilay, the duke of Argyle's brother, was in the action; he behaved with great intrepidity, and was wounded in the arm and side. About 800 of the rebels were killed, and many made prisoners, among whom were several gentlemen. The castle of Inverness, which had been in the possession of Mar, was delivered up to the king by lord Lovat, who had hitherto appeared in the interest of the Pretender. The marquis of Tullibardine left the earl to defend his own country; and many of the clans seeing no likelihood of their soon coming to a second engagement, returned home: it being much easier to lead an irregular

army to battle, than to induce them to bear the fatigues of a campaign.

The Pretender had now the greatest reason to be convinced of the vanity of his expectations, in imagining that the whole country would rise in the defence of his cause: but though his affairs were now desperate, yet he was so infatuated, as to resolve to hazard his person among his friends in Scotland. Passing therefore through France in disguise, and embarking in a small vessel at Dunkirk, he arrived, on the 22d of December, at Peterhead, in Scotland, with only six gentlemen in his retinue, where he was soon met and complimented by the earl of Mar, the earl of Maréshall, general Hamilton, and others of his adherents. Upon his arrival at Aberdeen, he was solemnly proclaimed, and soon after made his public entry into Dundee. He then went to Scoon, where he intended to have the ceremony of his coronation performed. He ordered thanksgivings for his safe arrival, enjoined the ministers to pray for him in the churches, and published a proclamation, in which he summoned a convention of the states. Thus, without the smallest share of power, he ridiculously went through all the ceremonies of royalty: but after this unimportant parade, his dignity was at an end. Towards the end of January, the duke of Argyle, assisted by lieutenant-general Cadogan, and other general officers, reinforced by a body of the Dutch troops lately landed, and a good train of artillery, marched from Stirling to attack the rebels at Perth, who now

no longer expecting assistance from France, abandoned the place, and retired with the Pretender to Dundee, and from thence to Montrose, where, finding that they were closely pursued by the king's forces, the Pretender, with the earls of Mar and Melfort, the lord Drummond, with some other chiefs, made their escape, on the 14th of February 1716, in a French ship which lay there; soon after which the rebels dispersed.

In the mean time the principal rebels taken at Preston were brought up to London; and when they came near the city, were pinioned, and their horses being led by foot soldiers, proceeded in procession through a crowd of numberless spectators. Among them was Forster, their general; the earls of Derwentwater, Nithisdale, Carawath, and Wintoun; viscount Kenmure, and the lords Widdrington and Nairn. The noblemen were sent to the Tower, and the rest to Newgate and other prisons.

The parliament meeting on the 9th of January, the above seven lords were impeached of high treason, and all of them pleaded guilty, except the earl of Wintoun, who, on various pretences, petitioned for a longer time: the rest received sentence of death, which was passed on them by the lord-chancellor Cowper, who presided as lord-high steward. Derwentwater and Kenmure were beheaded on Towerhill, on the 24th of February. The former is said to have been an amiable youth, brave, open, generous, hospitable, and humane, and died in the faith of the church of Rome. Kenmure

80 THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

mure was a member of the church of England; he was also a virtuous nobleman, and died with great resignation. Nithisdale, who was to have been executed with them, had the good fortune to make his escape out of the Tower the night before, in a female dress, and wearing a riding-hood. Wintoun afterwards escaped from the same prison, as did Forster and Mackintosh out of Newgate. Some were executed in the country, eleven at Preston, six at Wigan, and five at Manchester. A few were hanged at Tyburn, particularly colonel Oxburgh, Mr. Paul, a clergyman, and Mr. Hall, a justice of peace. In short, some who were found guilty, were transported at their own request, and others reprieved, who, with many that were untried, had the benefit of an act of grace, which passed soon after.

It ought not, perhaps, to be omitted, that the end of the year 1715 was remarkable for a very severe frost, which began towards the end of November, and continued till February; when the Thames being frozen over, there were beaten paths upon the river, from London bridge to Whitehall. That river was covered with booths; two whole oxen were roasted upon it; and, from the number of people that resorted to the river, it resembled a fair.

Some time before, Robert Walpole was made first commissioner of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer; and about the same time the parliament of Ireland attainted James Butler, duke of Ormond, of high treason, and confiscated his estate in that kingdom.

In April 1716, the king gave the royal assent to the septennial act; by which that and the succeeding parliaments have been continued seven years, unless sooner dissolved by the crown, instead of three years, as by the triennial act passed in the reign of king William. This occasioned great and long debates in both houses; and many lords protested against it. It was, however, supposed to be necessary at that juncture, on account of the seditious and rebellious spirit which appeared in the nation, from which frequent new elections might throw the kingdom into a flame: yet every friend of liberty must acknowledge, that a parliament, so long continued, must greatly encrease the power of the ministers, and may prove extremely dangerous to the constitution. Some time after, the clause in the act of settlement, by which the sovereign was not to leave the kingdom without consent of parliament, was repealed; and his majesty having constituted the prince of Wales guardian of the realm during his absence, set out for his German dominions on the 7th of July, and continued to do so almost every year after.

Though the rebellion in behalf of hereditary right and arbitrary power, was happily crushed, the spirit of it still remained, and discovered itself in licentious mobs, riots and tumults, in which the disorderly multitude readily engaged, as they had done ever since the affair of Sacheverel. To stem the torrent of these mobs, the wigs, and those who were well affected to the Hanoverian succession, began even in the last reign

reign to form themselves into clubs, which met at several public houses in the city and suburbs, then called Mug-houses, from the vessels used there, when whiggish healths were toasted. After his majesty's succession, when the rabble were rendered more furious, in proportion to the disappointment and vexation of their party, these clubs were not only kept up, but encreased. One of the most famous of these Mug-houses was the Roe-buck in Cheapside, and that in Salisbury court became so from the following circumstance. The company there giving, upon some occasion, extraordinary demonstrations of their affection to his majesty and the royal family, the Jacobite mob were so enraged, that on the 20th of July they attacked the Mug-house, which was kept by one Mr. Read, and would have demolished it, had not the company sent for a reinforcement from the Mug-house in Tavistock-street. Upon their arrival, the mob was put to flight; but on the 23d, one Vaughan, who had been a blue-coat boy at Bridewell hospital, persuaded the mob to attack the Mug-house again, in order to revenge their late affront. They agreed, and followed him with loud huzzas of High Church and Ormond, and Down with the Mug-houses. Read finding they were determined to pull down the house, ordered them to keep off, or he would fire amongst them; and they disregarding him, he let off his piece and killed Vaughan on the spot; and for this he was afterwards tried and acquitted. The mob still continuing their outrages by breaking the windows, pulling down the sign, and destroying

stroying the furniture, the sheriffs of London came and ordered the proclamation against riots to be read : but this having no effect, a party of the guards were sent for, and no sooner appeared than the mob dispersed ; however, five of the rioters were taken, who being tried and found guilty, were hanged at the end of Salisbury court, and this put an effectual stop to these kinds of riots, which had for a considerable time thrown the capital into the greatest confusion.

While his majesty was abroad, the Tripple alliance was signed between Great Britain, France, and the United Provinces. The king returned in January 1717 ; and soon after, the nation was alarmed with an intended invasion, by Charles XII. of Sweden, in favour of the Pretender, which his majesty communicated to the council. Upon this, some suspected persons were seized ; and among the rest, count Gyllemborg the Swedish envoy was put under an arrest, and all his papers seized. Baron Gortz, the minister and favourite of the king of Sweden, was coming over from Holland, to assist Gyllemborg in carrying on the conspiracy ; but finding that their projects were discovered, he returned to Holland. The British minister making application to the states, Gortz, with his two secretaries, after flying from place to place, to avoid the pursuit made after him, was seized at Arnheim in Guelderland, with all his papers. As Gortz was the principal projector, as well as conductor of this treacherous design, the whole plot was discovered by
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his and Gyllemborg's papers; and the parliament meeting at the end of February, copies of them were laid before the commons. Soon after, a bill passed to prohibit all commerce with Sweden; and a squadron was fitted out and sent into the Baltick, to block up the Swedish ships in their harbours. The animosity of the king of Sweden was thought to be occasioned by the king of England's having purchased Bremen and Verden of the Danes, who had taken them from the Swedes. However, Charles XII. of Sweden being soon after shot in the head by a cannon ball, before Frederickshall, an end was put to the designs of the Swedes against England; and those districts being afterwards purchased by a sum of money paid to Sweden, were confirmed to his Britannic majesty

In the mean time, his majesty sent to demand of the commons, an extraordinary supply, the better to enable him to secure his kingdoms against the danger with which they were threatened from Sweden; and after long and warm debates, 250,000 l. were granted for this purpose; but it was carried only by a majority of four voices: a small majority owing to a misunderstanding among the courtiers. A few months before, the lord Townshend had been removed from his office of secretary of state, though he was a little after appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland; yet on the conclusion of the debate on the above supply, he was also removed from that office; upon which Robert Walpole resigned his posts of first commissioner
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of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer : his example was followed by Methuen, secretary of state, and Pulteney, secretary at war. Soon after, the duke of Devonshire resigned his place of president of the council ; and now general Stanhope, who was afterwards created a baron, a viscount, and at length an earl, was made first commissioner of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer ; and the earl of Sunderland and Joseph Addison secretaries of state.

The parliament meeting after a short adjournment, his majesty, by the mouth of the lord chancellor, made a speech to both houses ; after which, Mr. Lechmere moving for an address of thanks, insinuated some reflections on those who had resigned their places, as if it was done with a design to distress the king's affairs ; to which Mr. Walpole replied, that people had often been reflected upon for accepting of places, in order to carry on designs against the interest of their country ; but he never heard a man censured for laying down the most profitable employments in the kingdom. That for his own part, if he would have complied with some measures, it was not in the power of any of the present ministers to remove him ; but that he had reasons for resigning, with which he had acquainted his majesty, and which he might, at a proper time, explain to that house ; and in the mean while his conduct would shew, that he never intended either to make the king uneasy, or to embarrass his affairs.

The earl of Oxford had been near two years a prisoner in the Tower, and now took the fa-

vourable opportunity of this dissention among his enemies, to petition for his trial. This was accordingly brought on in Westminster-hall; the lord chancellor Cowper being appointed high-steward, The earl was brought from the Tower by water, and conducted to the bar, on the 24th of June; when Mr. Hampden, one of the managers for the commons, recapitulated the charge against him in a long speech; and Sir Joseph Jekyll was proceeding to make good the first article, when the lord Harcourt made a motion that the commons should not be permitted to proceed against the earl, in making good the articles for high crimes and misdemeanors, till judgment was first given upon the article of high-treason; and after a long debate, this was carried in the affirmative. Hence arose a difference between the two houses; the commons resolving to proceed in their own way, and the lords as strenuously adhering to theirs. At length, in the beginning of July, the lords proceeded to the trial; and three proclamations were made, for the earl of Oxford's accusers to appear and make good the articles of his impeachment; and no body appearing, all the peers who were present, unanimously acquitted his lordship, not only of high-treason, but of the charge of high crimes and misdemeanors. The commons, however, addressed the king, to except the earl of Oxford out of the intended act of grace; and with this his majesty complied. This act was passed soon after, and by virtue of it the earl of Carnwath, the lord Widdrington,

Widdrington, and all who were confined on account of the rebellion, were discharged.

On the 2d of November, her royal highness the princess of Wales, was delivered of a prince, who was christened by the name of George William. His majesty and the duke of Newcastle, lord chamberlain of the household, being god-fathers, and the dutchess of St. Albans, god-mother. Immediately after the christening, the prince of Wales fell under his majesty's displeasure, and was ordered to leave St. James's; upon which he fixed his residence at Leicester house, with the princess his consort, though it was signified to her that she might stay at St. James's as long as she pleased: but the young princess and this infant prince, who died in February following, remained with his majesty at St. James's; but orders were given, that her royal highness might come to them as often as she pleased. After this, whenever the king went abroad, he committed the administration of the government to lords justices. This difference was carried to such a length, that all in the king's service were forbid to visit the prince's court at Leicester-house; and most of the servants of his royal highness forbore to go to St. James's.

During this year, a famous controversy was begun and carried on, occasioned by a sermon preached before the king by Dr. Hoadley, bishop of Bangor, on the nature of the kingdom of Christ, shewing it not to be of this world; and that men were accountable for their religious sentiments to none but to the author of their religion,

ligion, who alone was king in his church. This sermon occasioned innumerable pamphlets being wrote on both sides. Though the bishop was generally allowed to have the better of his antagonists, they, not content with separately opposing him, endeavoured to silence him by means of the convocation; and the lower house appointed a committee to draw up a representation to the upper house, against the positions advanced in his sermon, and in another piece entitled, "A Preservative against the Principles and Practices of the Nonjurors," which they also censured: to put an end to these heats, the convocation was prorogued, and has scarce ever sat since that time.

About the end of this year, the value of gold coin was lowered by a proclamation, published by his majesty, at the desire of the house of commons, by which guineas, which before passed for twenty one shillings and sixpence, were ordered for the future to go at only twenty-one shillings.

We shall now take a view of foreign affairs, in which Great Britain had a considerable share. Philip, king of Spain, taking advantage of the emperor's being at war with the Turks, invaded Sardinia, and made a conquest of the whole island; which he probably would not have done, had the news of the glorious victory just obtained by prince Eugene over the Turks, then reached Spain. This open act of hostility against the emperor, induced the courts of Great Britain, the emperor, France and Holland, to concert measures for restoring and preserving

erving the tranquillity of Europe, and the ministers of these powers after many conferences, formed the famous Quadruple alliance, in which it was stipulated, that the emperor should renounce all pretensions to the crown of Spain, and exchange Sardinia for Sicily, with the duke of Savoy; that the succession to the dutchies of Tuscany, Parma and Placentia, which the queen of Spain claimed, as a princess of the house of Farnese, should be settled on her eldest son, in case their present possessors should die without male issue.

Philip dissatisfied with this partition, made formidable preparations both by sea and land, while the king of England endeavoured in vain to persuade him to join the alliance, and at length sent Sir George Byng with a fleet, consisting of twenty ships of the line, two bomb vessels, and two fire ships, into the Mediterranean. Sir George, on his passing by Gibraltar, was joined by admiral Cornwall with two ships, and proceeded to Naples, where he was received as a deliverer, that city having been under the utmost terrors of an invasion from Spain. He there received intelligence that the Spanish army, amounting to 30,000 men, had landed in Sicily, reduced Palermo and Messina, and was then employed in the siege of the citadel of this last city; and that the Piedmontese garrison would be obliged to surrender, if not speedily relieved. This made him immediately determine to sail thither, and to attack the Spanish fleet. Upon doubling Cape Faro, he perceived two small Spanish vessels,

and pursuing them closely, they led him to their main fleet, which he observed in line of battle, amounting to twenty-seven sail. The Spanish fleet, though superior in numbers, on seeing the English, set sail; and Byng gave them chase all the rest of the day. The next morning, which was the 11th of August, the rear-admiral de Mari, with six ships of war, and the galleys, fire-ships and bomb-ketches, separated from the main fleet, and stood in for the Sicilian shore. Byng detached captain Walton with five ships in pursuit of them, and they were soon engaged. He himself chasing the main fleet, the battle began at about ten o'clock. The Spaniards appearing distracted in their counsels, made a confused running fight: but though the admirals behaved with courage and activity, they were all taken, except one of them, who made his escape with three ships of war and three frigates. On the 18th, the admiral received a letter from captain Walton dated off Syracuse, informing him that he had taken four Spanish ships of war, together with a bomb-ketch and a vessel laden with arms; and that he had burned four ships of the line, a fire-ship, and a bomb-vessel. This letter was esteemed an original, on account of its importance and its conciseness. The words were "Sir, we have taken and destroyed all the Spanish ships and vessels which were upon the coast. The number as per margin. I am, &c. G. Walton." Notwithstanding this victory, the Spanish army carried on the siege of the citadel of M. Sina, with such vigour,

gour, that the governor surrendered the place by capitulation. The king of Spain, by his attempt upon Sicily, had violated the treaty of Utrecht and the neutrality of Italy, of which the crown of Great Britain was one of the guarantees; yet his thus fulfilling his engagements was highly resented by the Spaniards; and as a rupture was the necessary consequence of it, a war was declared against Spain, in December following, both by Great Britain and France; and though there ensued many congresses, treaties and conventions, to accommodate matters between them, there has been more or less a misunderstanding between Spain and Great Britain ever since.

The parliament meeting in December, earl Stanhope offered to the house of lords, a bill for strengthening the Protestant interest, by repealing the acts against occasional conformity and the schism bills, which had been enacted against the dissenters at the end of the last reign. The tory lords were astonished at this motion, for which they were unprepared. The archbishop of Canterbury represented those acts as the main bulwarks of the English church, and that it was needless to repeal them, since they had not been put in force; but Dr. Hoadley, bishop of Bangor, proved, that they were persecuting laws; and that the arguments in justification of them, would justify all the persecutions maintained by the heathens against the professors of Christianity, and even the Popish inquisition. In short, this bill, after long debates,

92 THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND,
bates, passed both houses, and in February
1719, received the royal assent.

The duke of Ormond now once more hoped, by the assistance of cardinal Alberoni, the Spanish minister, to place the Pretender on the throne of England; and in March 1719, his majesty acquainted the parliament, that he had received intelligence of this invasion. Both houses gave his majesty the strongest assurances of assistance; and orders were immediately given for fitting out a fleet: the troops marched to guard the coasts; four regiments were brought over from Ireland; two Swiss battalions arrived in the river Thames; and three Dutch battalions landed in the North of England. At the same time the French king and the governor of the Austrian Netherlands, ordered bodies of troops to march, and be in readiness to be transported to England, to oppose this invasion. But the whole scheme was defeated, without human assistance. The Spanish fleet of about fifty transports, convoyed by four men of war, sailed from Cadiz, with the duke of Ormond and about 5000 men, and also arms for twice that number: but they were entirely dispersed and disabled by a violent storm which lasted forty-eight hours: however the earls of Seaforth and Marishal, with the marquis of Tullibardine, and about 400 men, mostly Spaniards, reached Scotland, and soon assembled above 1600 highlanders. But major general Wightman marching against them, soon drove them from their fastnesses, and having dispersed them, about 300 Spaniards
surrendered

surrendered themselves prisoners of war. While Seaforth, Marishal, and Tullibardine, made the best of their way to the western isles, from whence they found means to return to the continent.

In return for this insult, an expedition was undertaken against Spain, in which the lord Cobham, with the land forces, and vice-admiral Mighels, with the fleet, took Vigo, and Pont-a-Vedre; in which places, they found some brass artillery, small arms and military stores, with which they returned to England. The ill success of the Spaniards now induced them to wish for peace; and the king of Spain was at last contented to sign the quadruple alliance.

King George having thus, with equal deliberation and vigour, used every precaution which his sagacity could suggest, for securing himself in the possession of the crown, the parliament turned to an object of great importance; that of securing the dependency of the Irish parliament, upon that of Great Britain. Maurice Annesley had appealed from a decree of the house of peers in Ireland, to the house of lords in England; and they having reversed the appeal, the British peers ordered the barons of the exchequer in Ireland to put Mr. Annesley in possession of the lands he had lost by the decree in that kingdom. This order the barons obeyed; but the Irish house of lords passed a vote against them, for attempting to diminish their just privileges, and ordered the barons to be taken under the custody of the black rod. The house of peers in England, on the other hand,

hand, resolved that the barons of the exchequer in Ireland, had behaved with courage and fidelity, and prepared a bill, by which the Irish house of lords was deprived of the right of final jurisdiction. This was, however, opposed in both houses. In the lower house, Mr. Pitt maintained, that it would encrease the power of the English peers, which was already too great; and Mr. Hungerford proved, that the Irish lords had always exerted their powers of finally deciding causes. The duke of Leeds also exerted himself against the bill; but notwithstanding all opposition, it was carried by a great majority, and received the royal assent. But though this was a blow to the liberty of Ireland, the house of lords in that kingdom, had not the spirit to make much opposition.

England, however, suffered about this time a much severer blow from the spirit of avarice and chicanery, with which all ranks of people were infected by the South Sea scheme; tho' just before France had been deluded by another which nearly resembled it; where John Law, a Scotchman, had erected the Mississippi Company, which at first promised the deluded people immense wealth, but ended in their ruin and distress. The South Sea scheme in England was no less fatal. In order to explain this in as concise a manner as possible, it must be observed, that the government, ever since the revolution, not having sufficient supplies granted by parliament, or what was granted requiring time to be collected, they were constrained to borrow money from different companies of merchants;

merchants; and, among the rest, from the South Sea company. In 1716 the government was indebted to this company about nine millions and a half, for which an interest of six per cent. was paid. As this was not the only company to which the government was debtor, and paid such large annual interest, Sir Robert Walpole formed the design of lessening these national debts, by giving the several companies the alternative either of accepting five per cent. for their money, or of being paid the principal. The several companies chose rather to accept of this diminished interest than of their capital; and the South Sea company having made up their debt to the government ten millions, annually received, instead of 600,000 l. as usual, only 500,000 l. In the same manner the bank, and other companies, were satisfied with receiving a diminished annuity for their several loans, which greatly lessened the debt of the nation. While things were in this situation, Sir John Blount, who had been bred a scrivener, and was a man of great art and cunning, proposed to the ministry, in the name of the South Sea company, to lessen the national debt, by allowing the South Sea company to purchase all the debts of the different companies, and thus become the principal creditor of the state, upon terms extremely advantageous to the government. The South Sea company were to redeem the debts of the nation out of the hands of the private proprietors; and for the interest of this money they had thus taken into their own hands, they were to be allowed five per cent.

for

for six years, and then the interest should be reduced to four per cent. and be redeemable by parliament. For these purposes, a bill passed both houses in 1720; and, as the directors of the South Sea company could not be supposed to be possessed of money sufficient to buy up these debts of the government, they were empowered to raise it by opening a subscription, and granting annuities to such proprietors as should think proper to exchange their creditors. At the same time the proprietors were flattered with superior advantages by thus exchanging their property in the other funds for South Sea stock, by a chimerical prospect of having their money turned to a vast advantage by the commerce, which the company was to carry on in the South Seas, to some valuable settlements granted them by the king of Spain. The people being allured by these advantages, the directors books were no sooner opened for the first subscription, than crowds came to make the exchange; the delusion spread; the subscriptions, in a few days, sold for double the price they had been bought for. Nothing was now minded but the business of stock-jobbing. Exchange-alley, where these affairs were transacted, was in a continual hurry, where crowds of all ranks and qualities daily resorted. Upon the bill having passed both houses, 100 l. was sold for 310 l. even before it had received the royal assent. In a few days after it rose to 340, then to 400, and before the end of May to 500. In short, from the artifices of the managers, and the credulity of the people, by the

the 2d of June it got up to 890, and continued rising and falling till it mounted to above 1000. The desperate, who ventured first and sold out in time, were generally great gainers, while the wiser and more sedate, who came in later, were many of them ruined; upon which occasion it was then a common saying, that the *wrongheads* had the better of the *longheads*. These stocks had no sooner risen to the utmost height, but they suddenly fell faster than they rose, the company's books were at length shut, and thousands of opulent families were reduced to a state of indigence.

The parliament, at their next meeting, made a rigorous enquiry into these frauds, which they no sooner began, than Sir John Blount, who had the chief hand in this ruinous project, and Mr. Knight, the company's treasurer, fled out of the kingdom. The parliament found, that many of the directors, who, by their arts, had raised these vain expectations, had amassed immense fortunes; they therefore stripped them of their ill-acquired wealth; and dismissed all the directors of that company from their seats in the house of commons, or the places they enjoyed under the government. The delinquents being punished by large fines, several useful and just regulations were taken by parliament for relieving the sufferers. Of the profits arising from the South Sea scheme, the sum of seven millions was granted to the ancient proprietors; additions were made to their dividends out of what was possessed by the company in their own right, and the remaining capital

pital stock was also divided among all the proprietors at 33 l. per cent. Thus the wisest means were taken to relieve the people: while the king, presiding with serenity and wisdom, influenced his parliament to pursue the most equitable measures, and endeavoured, by his counsels, to restore the national credit.

A spirit of gaming being thus raised in the nation, many idle projects were set on foot, which were deservedly called bubbles, these amounted to near a hundred, and it was computed, that near a million and a half was won and lost in them. Mean while the hand Mr. Robert Walpole had in settling the distracted affairs of the South Sea company, and restoring the credit of the nation, bringing him again into favour, he was made chancellor of the exchequer and first commissioner of the treasury; about two years after he was made knight of the bath, then of the garter, and continued prime-minister to the end of this reign, and fifteen years of the next.

Some time before, the royal family was happily reconciled. The prince of Wales attended his majesty at St. James's, and after being half an hour in private discourse with him, was, at his return, by the king's command, attended by a party of the yeomen of the guards, and a body of horse, immediately after which the foot guards began to mount guard at Leicester-house.

The discontents arising from these public calamities, once more flattered the disaffected party with hopes. But in all their counsels they

they were so weak, divided and wavering, that their designs could not escape the knowledge of the king, who, by his alliances, had made every prince in Europe a friend to his cause. The duke of Orleans, regent of France, informed him, that a new conspiracy was raised against him by several persons of distinction. For this crime Dr. Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, was apprehended and committed to the Tower, as was also Christopher Layer, a young counsellor of the Temple; and afterwards, at different times, were taken into custody, the duke of Norfolk, the earl of Orrery, lord North and Grey, Dr. Freind, John Plunkett, George Kelly, Dennis Kelly, and others. All but Atterbury, Layer, and Plunkett, were, after some time, admitted to bail, and discharged. Layer was tried at the king's bench bar, on the 21st of November 1722, and was convicted of enlisting men for the Pretender's service; it also appeared upon his trial, that the conspirators intended to seize the earl of Cadogan, and at the same time to take possession of the Tower; afterwards the bank of England; and then to seize his majesty and the prince of Wales. The trial lasted seventeen hours, when, being found guilty, he received sentence of death. He was reprieved from time to time, in hopes of his making discoveries; but after having been often examined, he, to the last, refused to mention his accomplices, and was hanged and quartered at Tyburn, on the 17th of May 1723; after which his head was fixed upon Temple bar. He was

the only person who suffered death upon this occasion: but the parliament passed bills for inflicting pains and penalties on bishop Atterbury, Kelly, and Plunkett; by which the first was banished, and the two others imprisoned for life. The bishop continued in exile in France, where he at length died.

Great complaints being made of abuses committed by the masters in chancery, the earl of Macclesfield resigned the great seal in the beginning of the year 1725, and was afterwards impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors, in receiving exorbitant sums of the masters in chancery for their admission; for which he was fined 30,000 l; and in the next session an act was passed for the relief of the suitors of the court of chancery. His lordship was some time a prisoner in the Tower, till he paid his fine. He was succeeded in his high office by Sir Peter King, lord chief justice of the common pleas, who was created baron of Ocham. In the same year the most honourable order of the bath was revived, and thirty-seven knights were installed.

Few transactions of importance happened during the remainder of this reign. The long depending mediation of Great Britain and France, for composing the differences between the emperor and the king of Spain, being terminated by the resentment of the Spanish court against that of France, for their sending back to Spain the Infanta, who had been espoused to the French king; and England not chusing to act without France, their imperial and catholic

tholic majesties came to a separate agreement, and concluded a treaty at Vienna, which was deemed prejudicial to the interest of Great Britain, as the Ostend company, which had been established by the emperor, was to be supported by it; and there were said to be secret articles in favour of the Pretender. This treaty produced that of Hanover, concluded while his majesty was there in 1725, between Great Britain, France, and Prussia, which was designed to balance that between the courts of Vienna and Madrid. These counter alliances put Europe again into a flame; and three British squadrons being fitted out; one was sent to the West Indies, under admiral Hoffer, to intercept the Spanish galleons, of which the Spaniards being apprized, sent to forbid their sailing; and the greatest part of the English squadron sent on this expedition, was rendered by the worms, unfit for service, and the men cut off by the unhealthiness of the climate: another squadron was sent to the coast of Spain, under Sir John Jennings, and a third into the Baltic, commanded by Sir Charles Wager, to hinder the czarina, from attacking the king of Sweden, who was upon the point of acceding to the Hanover treaty.

The Spaniards now undertook the siege of Gibraltar, and opened their trenches before it on the 11th of February 1727, with an army of 20,000 men; but it was well provided for defence, and had a numerous garrison, which treated the efforts of the besiegers with great contempt: but though the siege was suspended

upon preliminary articles, for a general pacification being signed, it was not raised till some time after the king's death.

The king had not now visited his German dominions for two years. and therefore, on the 3d of June, set out for Hanover, and proceeding to Greenwich, embarked for Holland: upon his landing, he lay at the little town of Vaert: the next day he proceeded on his journey, and two days after, arrived between ten and eleven at night, at Delden, to appearance in good health. Here he supped pretty heartily, and eat part of a melon, which his stomach seemed not well to digest; for setting out at three the next morning, he had not travelled far before he was troubled with some gripings of the cholic. Being come to Linden, he could eat nothing at dinner; upon which it was judged adviseable, that he should be let blood. His majesty being desirous to reach his own dominions, travelled on, though his attendants advised him to stay at Linden; but as he proceeded, he fell into a kind of lethargic dozing in his coach; and his illness encreasing on his arrival at the palace of his brother the bishop of Osnaburg, he died about eleven o'clock the next morning, on Sunday the 11th of June, 1727, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, leaving the crown of these realms, as well as his electoral dominions, to his only son the prince of Wales.

George I. married the princess Sophia Dorothy, the daughter and heiress of the duke of Zell, by whom he had his late majesty Geor.

II. and the late queen of Prussia. The king's body was conveyed to Hanover, and interred there among his ancestors.

Before this prince had ascended the throne of Great Britain, he had justly acquired the character of a wise politician, a circumspect general, and a just and merciful prince. He was plain and simple in his person and address, grave and composed in his deportment, though easy, familiar, and facetious, in his hours of relaxation. He ascended the throne of England with a mind happily disposed to govern his new subjects, according to the maxims of the British constitution and the genius of the people. This he ever made the rule of his conduct; while he himself appeared interested in the liberty and happiness of his subjects. He was almost constantly attended with good fortune, which was chiefly owing to his prudence and assiduity. He did not distinguish himself by patronizing the arts and sciences, yet founded in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, two professorships, one of modern history, and the other of modern languages.

C H A P. II.

G E O R G E II.

On the News of the late King's Death, George is proclaimed. The Disputes between the Court and Country Party. The Villanies in the Fleet Prison occasion the Jails being put under proper Regulations. Foreign Affairs accommodated by the Peace of Vienna. The Salt Tax, after a violent Opposition, revived. The Charitable Corporation. The Excise Scheme. The Marriage of the Prince of Orange to the Princess Anne. Foreign Affairs. The Prince of Wales's Marriage to the Princess of Saxe Gotha. A Breach in the Royal Family. The Affair of Captain Porteus. The Death of Queen Caroline. Spanish Depredations. The Convention. War declared against Spain. The hard Frost. Admiral Vernon takes Porto Bello. The Princess Mary married to the Prince of Hesse Cassel. The Death of the Emperor occasions a dreadful War in Germany. A Motion made to impeach Walpole. Vernon's ill Success at Carthagena. The King of Prussia endeavours, by force of Arms, to obtain Silesia. The French assist the Elector of Bavaria in obtaining the Imperial Crown. Discontents of the People of England at the Progress of

of the War with Spain. Sir Robert made Earl of Orford, and the Ministry changed. The Prince of Wales restored to Favour. The Elector of Bavaria chosen Emperor, under the Name of Charles VII. The Progress of the War in Germany, Flanders, the Netherlands, and Italy. The Battle of Dettingen. An intended Invasion of England prevented. An Engagement in the Mediterranean between Matthews and Lestock, and the combined Fleets of France and Spain. The progress of the War on the Continent continued. Commodore Anson returns from his Voyage, in which he had encompassed the Earth. Sir John Balchen in the Victory foundered at Sea. Marshal de Belleisle taken Prisoner. The Death of the Emperor Charles VII. The King of Prussia gains two successive Victories. The Treaty of Dresden. The Allies defeated at Fontenoy. Cape riton taken by the English. The Rebellion under the young Pretender. Count Saxe subdues all Flanders, Brabant, and Hainault, and defeats the allied Army at Roucour. The Spaniards abandon Piedmont and the Milanese. The Genoese expel the Austrians. An Expedition to the Coast of Brittany. Attempt upon Port l'Orient. Bergen-op-Zoom taken. A French Squadron defeated by the Admirals Anson and Warren. Admiral Hawke obtains another Victory. Transactions in the East and West Indies. The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle concluded. Earthquakes in England. The Death of Frederick, Prince of Wales. The hard Frost. The Incroachments of the French in America. War declared

declared against France. Minorca taken by the French. The Action between Admiral Byng and M. de la Galassionere. The progress of the War in Germany, between the King of Prussia, in Conjunction with the English, and the Austrians, French and Russians, and of the English in the East and West Indies. The Duke of Cumberland obliged to retire before the French, who take Possession of Hanover, which obliges the Duke to conclude the Convention of Closter-Seven. Sir Edward Hawke obtains a great Victory over the French at Sea. Two Descents made upon the Coast of France. Senegal, and other Settlements on the Coast of Africa, taken from the French. Cape Briton again taken, with the island of St. John. Progress of the War in Germany. Havre-de-Grace, in France, set on Fire by Admiral Rodney. Admiral Boscawen defeats de la Clue's Squadron. Sir Edward Hawke defeats the French at Sea. The Island of Guadaloupe taken from the French. Ticonderoga and Crown Point taken from the French. Quebec, the Capital of Canada, besieged and taken. The great Success of the English in the East Indies. Montreal, in Canada, taken. His Majesty's Death and Character. Miscellaneous Transactions.

THE decease of his late majesty was not known in England till the 14th of June, when an express arrived with the melancholy news, which was delivered to Sir Robert Walpole, who was then at his house at Chelsea:
upon



GEORGE II.



upon which he hasted with the important intelligence to the prince and princess of Wales, who immediately came to Leicester-house, where they were received by many lords, the privy-council, and persons of quality and distinction, who drew up and signed an instrument for proclaiming his royal highness king of these realms; and the ceremony of the proclamation was performed the next morning. In the interim, his majesty caused all the members of the late privy council to be sworn of his privy-council, and declared to them, that the religion, laws, and liberties of the kingdom, were most dear to him; and that the preservation of the constitution, in church and state, should always be his first and principal care. On the evening of the 14th. his majesty took and subscribed the oath relating to the security of the church of Scotland. On the 16th the lord-mayor and aldermen of London waited on the king and queen, with their compliments of condolence and congratulation, upon his majesty's accession to the crown; and their example was soon after followed by most of the cities and towns in the three kingdoms, and the plantations.

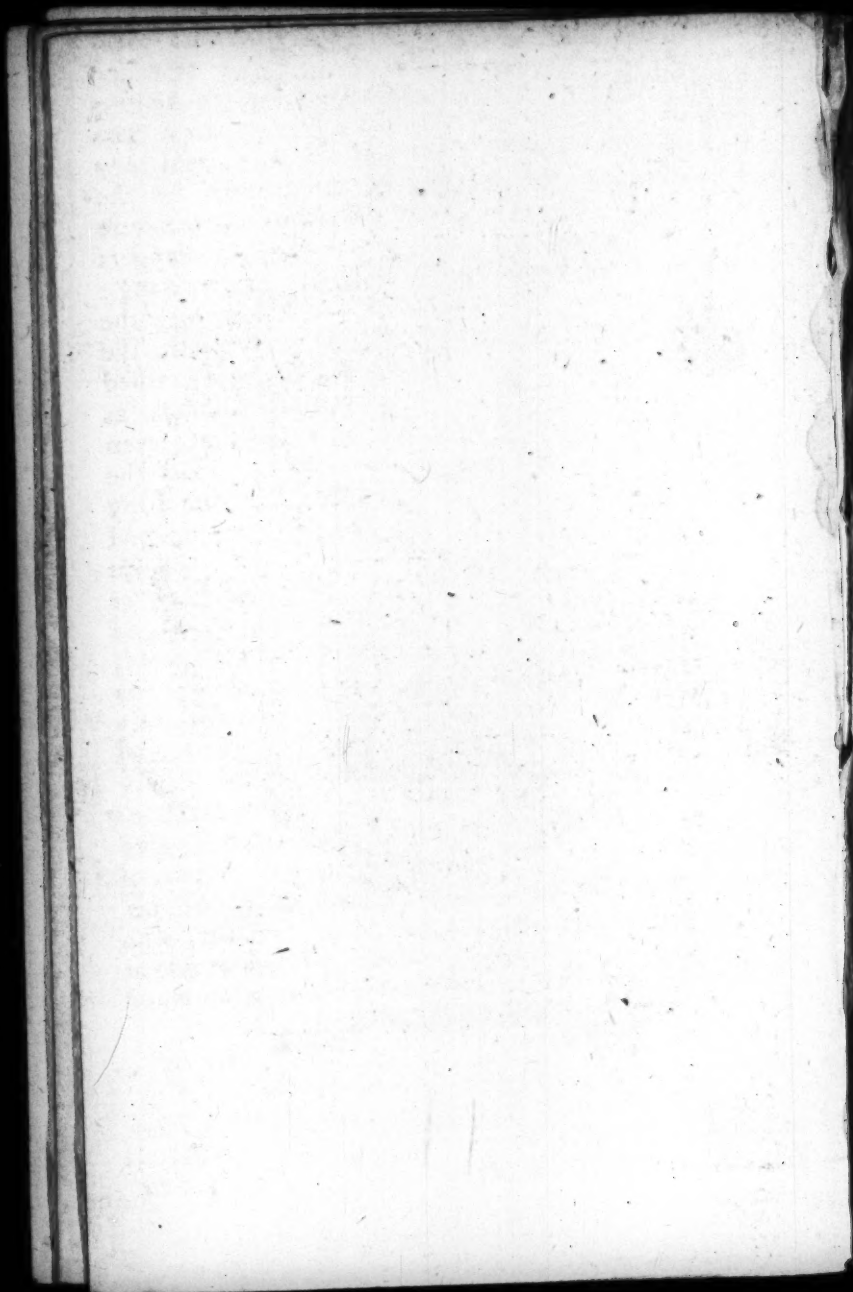
The parliament met on the 17th, and settled on his majesty the same civil list as had been enjoyed by the late king; and also made a provision for the queen, in case she should survive his majesty, of 100,000 l. per annum, during her life, together with his majesty's palace at Somerset house, and the lodge and lands at Richmoud Old Park. Their majesties coronation

tion was performed with great splendor, on the 11th of October, and extraordinary rejoicings were then made in every part of his majesty's dominions. On the 30th, which was both the lord-mayor's day, and the queen's birth day, their majesties, with the princess royal and princess Carolina, accompanied by the great officers of state, dined with the lord-mayor at Guildhall, were present at the ball, and at eleven at night returned to St. James's, in the same state with which they had entered the city.

The ministry was at first divided between lord Townshend, a man of extensive knowledge, the witty and ingenious earl of Chesterfield, and Sir Robert Walpole, who soon after engrossed the greatest share of the administration. The house of commons, which, in the preceding reign was distinguished into whigs and jacobites, underwent another change, and was divided into the court and country party. The former favoured all the schemes of the ministry, and the measures of the crown: they considered foreign alliances as conducive to internal security; and paid subsidies to other princes for their promises of future assistance. Of these, Sir Robert was the leader; and such members as he could not convince by his eloquence, he undertook to bring over to the court side by places and pensions. The country party, who were averse to continental connections, complained that immense sums were lavished on subsidies that could never be useful; and that alliances were purchased with money, which should be only rewarded by a reciprocation of good



*STANHOPE EARL of
CHESTERFIELD.*



good intentions. These looked upon the king's frequent journies to his electoral dominions, with a jealous eye, and sometimes hinted at the alienation of the royal affections from England. As the court party generally threatened the house of commons with imaginary dangers to the state; the country party declaimed against the incroachments of the prerogative: but the complaints of neither party were founded in truth; the kingdom was in no danger from abroad; nor was internal liberty in the least infringed by the crown. While the court party was headed by Walpole, the leaders of the opposite party were Mr. Pulteney, Sir William Wyndham, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Hungerford, and Mr. Shippen.

In the beginning of December, 1728, prince Frederic, his majesty's eldest son, who had been represented by the Jacobites, and the other enemies of the house of Hanover, as an idiot and a driveller, arrived in England from Hanover, and was introduced into the privy-council, and created prince of Wales. At his appearance, the slanders passed upon him were silenced, his abilities acknowledged, and his amiable qualities soon engaged the affections of the people.

The parliament, which met on the 21st of January, 1729, was distinguished by its being warmly employed in the cause of humanity. James Oglethorpe, a member of the house of commons, paying a visit to an ingenious friend, who was a prisoner in the Fleet, was convinced, that the unhappy persons confined there were treated with the utmost cruelty; and

laying the affair before the house, many humane members concurred with him, and promoted a motion made by Mr. Oglethorpe, for appointing a committee to enquire into the state of the prisons of this kingdom; and this committee being appointed, Mr. Oglethorpe was chosen chairman. The committee began with visiting the Fleet prison, in a body, where they found Sir William Rich, bart. loaded with irons, by order of Bambridge the warden, whom he had offended; they were filled with horror at the discovery of many other inhuman barbarities committed by that ruffian; and detected the most iniquitous scenes of fraud, villany, and extortion. Struck with these scenes of complicated villany, they made their report to the house, who unanimously resolved, that John Huggins and Bambridge, the late and present wardens, with several of their agents, should be committed close prisoners to Newgate. A state of the Fleet prison was published, which displayed a dreadful scene of cruelty and barbarity; and an address was presented to the king, desiring him to direct his attorney-general to prosecute these persons and their accomplices; and a bill was brought in to disable Bambridge from executing the office of warden, and another for the better regulating the prison of the Fleet. Huggins and Bambridge were tried, not only for many high crimes and misdemeanours, but for murder, yet were unexpectedly acquitted. One Aston, clerk to the marshalsea, was also tried for murder, and acquitted. The issue of this affair was, that the jails were put under proper

proper regulations; and our unhappy fellow-subjects, struggling under the pressure of misfortunes, delivered from the inhuman gripe of villains, who had made a practice of adding misery, torment, and extortion, to the pain of imprisonment.

About this time, petitions were delivered to the house of commons, from the merchants of London, complaining of the interruptions they had for several years suffered in their trade, from the depredations of the Spaniards in the West Indies. They examined the evidence on which these complaints were founded, and presented an address to his majesty, who promised them all possible satisfaction; negociations were begun for that purpose, and a new treaty was signed at Seville, between the emperor and the kings of Great Britain and Spain; which was next year followed by the treaty of Vienna. By this last treaty, an end was, in some measure, put to the troubles of Europe: and an interval of peace succeeded, in which few events happened that deserve the remembrance of an historian: such intervals are, however, the era of happiness to a nation; history being too often only the register of human calamities. The king flattered himself, that by this last treaty, the peace of Europe would be established upon the most lasting foundation. By it Don Carlos, infant of Spain, was put in peaceable possession of Parma and Placentia, by a fleet commanded by Sir Charles Wager, united with the Spanish squadron; and 6000 Spaniards quietly admitted and quartered in the

dutchy of Tuscany, to secure for him the reversion of that dukedom. Thus Europe appeared like a great republic, which, by common consent put monarchs into new kingdoms, and changed the order of succession at its pleasure. An interval of profound peace followed, in which nothing remarkable happened, except constant debates in the house of commons between the court and country parties, on the national debt, the supplies, and almost every measure of government. These debates were carried on with great bitterness and acrimony; and there being generally less reason than resentment in the speeches on each side, a calm dispassionate reader cannot forbear being astonished at the heat with which many subjects, which now appear of little importance, were then discussed; and cannot help smiling at those denunciations of ruin which flowed from the tongues of these political orators. However, the liberty of a free nation is best supported by a vigorous opposition to every thing that seems in the least to affect the freedom and happiness of the people.

No motion in parliament, in 1731, produced such a warm contest as did that of Sir Robert Walpole's proposing that the duties upon salt, which about two years before had been abolished, should now be revived, and granted for three years; though, to sweeten this proposal, he declared, that the land-tax for the ensuing year should be reduced to one shilling in the pound. All the members of the country party were immediately in commotion. They affirmed,

affirmed, that the revival of this tax would be grinding the faces of the poor, in order to ease a few rich men of the landed interest: that the prices of all necessaries being thus enhanced, the wages of the tradesmen and manufacturer must be encreased; and where these are high, our manufacturers would be underfold by those of cheaper countries: they alledged, that the salt-tax particularly affected the poor, who could not afford to eat fresh provisions; and as it formerly occasioned murmurs among the lower class of people, the revival of it would, in all probability, exasperate them into open sedition. These, and many other objections, Walpole endeavoured to obviate in a long speech, which was minutely answered by Mr. Pulteney: yet the question being put, the minister's motion was carried in the affirmative; but before the bill passed, several motions were made, and additional clauses proposed by the members in the opposition: new debates were raised on every new objection, and the courtiers were obliged to dispute their ground by inches; but they at last carried their point, and the salt duty was revived.

During the same session, the attention of the house was attracted by the state of the charitable corporation. This company was first erected in the year 1707. Their professed intention was to lend money to the poor, upon small pledges, at legal interest; and to persons of higher rank, upon proper security. Their capital was at first limited to 30,000 l. but they afterwards encreased it to 600,000 l. This

money was procured by subscription, and the care of conducting the capital entrusted to a number of directors. In October, 1731, George Robinson, Esq; member for Marlow, the cashier, and John Thompson, warehouse-keeper of the corporation, disappeared in one day. The proprietors being alarmed, appointed a committee to inspect the state of their affairs; and 500,000*l.* of the capital appeared to be sunk. Upon this, the proprietors petitioned the house, representing the manner in which they had been defrauded of such large sums of money; that many of the petitioners were reduced to the greatest misery and distress; and entreating that they might obtain such relief as to the house should seem meet. The petition was received, and a secret committee appointed to enquire into the grievance; when it was soon discovered that a most iniquitous scene of fraud had been carried on by Thompson and Robinson, in concert with several of the directors, for embezzling the capital, and defrauding the proprietors. In this infamous conspiracy, many persons of rank and quality were concerned. Sir Robert Sutton and Sir Archibald Grant, were expelled the house of commons for having a considerable share in those fraudulent practices; and a bill was brought in to restrain them and other delinquents from leaving the kingdom, or alienating their effects. In the mean time, the committee received a letter from seignior John Angelo Belloni, an eminent banker at Rome, informing them, that Thompson was secured in that city, with all his papers,

pers, and confined in the castle of St. Angelo's; and that his papers were transmitted to his correspondent at Paris, who should deliver them up on certain conditions stipulated in favour of the prisoner. This letter was, however, considered as an artifice to insinuate a favourable opinion of the Pretender, as if he had secured Thompson from his zeal for justice, and his affection to the English. Hence the proposal was rejected with disdain, and both houses concurred in ordering the letter to be burned at the Royal Exchange, by the hands of the common hangman. The lower house also resolved, that it was an insolent, audacious, absurd, and contradictory libel; that the whole transaction was a scandalous artifice, calculated to delude the unhappy, and to disguise and conceal the wicked practices of the professed enemies to his majesty's person, crown, and dignity.

In the same session was brought before the house an affair, which also reflected great dishonour on several members, as being guilty of a base and sordid act of the grossest knavery. A committee was appointed to enquire into the sale of the late earl of Derwentwater's estates; and it appearing by the report, that the sale had been fraudulent, a bill was prepared to render it void; and both Dennis Bond, and serjeant Birch, who were commissioners for the sale of the forfeited estates, were declared guilty of a notorious breach of trust, and expelled the house.

The next session of parliament, which met on the 16th of January 1733, was distinguished

ed by an important affair, which threw not only the house of commons, but the whole nation, into a flame. This was the excise bill, which Sir Robert Walpole introduced into the house, by first declaiming against the frauds practised by the factors of London, who were employed by the American planters, in selling their tobacco. To prevent these frauds, he proposed to join the laws of excise to those of the customs, that the farther sum of three farthings per pound charged upon imported tobacco, should be still levied at the custom-house, and that it should be then lodged in warehouses appointed by the commissioners of excise. That the keeper of each warehouse should have one lock and key, and the merchant-importer another; and that the tobacco should be thus secured, till the merchant should find vent for it, either by exportation or home-consumption: the part assigned for exportation should be weighed at the custom-house, discharged of the three-farthings per pound, which had been paid at its first importation, and then exported, without farther trouble: that what was destined for home consumption, should, in the presence of the warehouse-keeper, be delivered to the purchaser, upon his paying the inland duty of four-pence per pound; by which means the merchant would be eased of the inconvenience of paying the duty upon importation, or of granting bonds, and finding sureties for the payment, before he had found a market for his commodity: that all penalties and forfeitures, so far as they formerly belonged

belonged to the crown, should, for the future, be applied to the use of the public: that appeals in this, as well as in all other cases relating to the excise, should be heard and determined by two or three of the judges, to be nominated by his majesty; and in the country, by the judge of assize, upon the next circuit, who should hear and determine such appeals in the most summary manner, without the formality of proceedings in courts of law or equity.

This was the substance of the famous excise scheme, in favour of which Sir Robert Walpole moved, that the duties and subsidies on tobacco should, from and after the 24th of January, cease and determine. The debate which ensued was maintained by all the able speakers on both sides of the question. Sir Robert Walpole was answered by Mr. Perry, member for the city of London. Sir Paul Methuen joined in the opposition. Sir John Barnard, another representative of London, distinguished himself in the same cause. He was supported by Mr. Pulteney, Sir William Wyndham, and others. Those who opposed the scheme asserted, that it would involve the factors in such hardships, that they would not be able to continue the trade: that it would be dangerous to the liberties of the subject, as it tended to promote a general excise: that it would produce an additional swarm of excise-officers and warehouse-keepers, appointed and paid by the treasury; and by multiplying the dependents of the crown, enable it still farther to influence the freedom

freedom of elections; and that traders would become slaves to excisemen and warehouse-keepers. After a long and warm debate, the motion was carried by a majority of sixty-one voices; and a bill was ordered to be brought in accordingly. This was done on the 4th of April, when it was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second on the 11th; but the alarm was now spread to the most distant parts of the nation; the cry was, "Liberty and property, and no excise!" and on the 10th of April the sheriffs, aldermen, and commons of London, in a procession of 200 coaches, attended by great crowds on foot, went to Westminster-hall with a petition, humbly praying to be heard by council against the bill: but this was carried in the negative by so small a majority as seventeen. The next day petitions came from Coventry and Nottingham, against the bill which were ordered to lie upon the table. Mean while, the populace blocked up all the avenues to the house of commons, insulted those members who had voted for the ministry on this occasion; and Sir Robert began to be in fear of his life. He therefore thought proper to drop the design, by moving, that the second reading of the bill should be postponed till the 12th of June. The miscarriage of this bill, occasioned the greatest joy and satisfaction, and was celebrated with public rejoicings in London, Westminster, and some of the principal towns in the kingdom; and in the capital, Sir Robert was burned in effigy.

On the 13th of June his majesty went to the house, and put an end to the session, after having passed an act for giving 80,000 l. to the princess royal, for her portion, on her marriage to the prince of Orange. On the 7th of November his highness arrived at Greenwich, in the Fubbs yatcht, and proceeded in one of the king's barges to the Tower; from whence he went in one of his majesty's coaches to Somerset house, and was the next day received by the royal family with the greatest respect. But the prince being taken ill, the marriage was postponed, and he repaired to Bath for the recovery of his health. An act was afterwards passed for settling 5000 l. per annum on the princess royal for life; and on the 14th of March 1734, the marriage of that princess, with his serene highness, was celebrated with great magnificence; and this match being agreeable to the nation in general, it occasioned great rejoicings both in town and country: addresses of congratulation were sent up from all parts to their majesties, and to the prince and princess; and in about a month after, they set sail for Holland.

In the beginning of the year 1734, the members in the opposition again employed their eloquence and abilities in attempting to bring in a bill for the repeal of the septennial act, and for the more frequent meeting and calling of parliaments. The ministry insisted upon the encrease of Papists and Jacobites, which rendered it dangerous to weaken the hands of the government, and challenged the opposition to
produce

produce one instance, in which the least encroachment had been made on the liberties of the people, since the septennial act took place. In answer to this it was asserted, that the septennial act itself was an encroachment on the rights of the people; an act passed by a parliament that made itself septennial: that, during the continuance of that parliament, several severe laws had been enacted, by one of which, a man might be removed, in case of treason, and tried in any place, where the jury might be favourable to the crown; and where the prisoners witnesses could not or dare not come: by another, a justice of the peace was empowered to put the best subjects to immediate death, after reading a proclamation against riots: that the South Sea scheme was established by an act of a septennial parliament; and under their influence also, the excise bill had like to have passed into a law. In this debate the country-party exerted themselves with the utmost vigour, but in vain; the friends of the ministry were, as usual, victorious, and the motion was suppressed by a majority of voices.

Mean while the affairs of Europe were in great confusion. Augustus, king of Poland and elector of Saxony, dying, this event was productive of a war. The elector of Saxony, son to the late king, and Stanislaus, whose daughter was married to the French monarch, declared themselves candidates for the throne of Poland. The emperor, the czarina, and the king of Prussia, espoused the interest of the Saxon; the king of France supported the pretensions

tenfions of his father-in-law. Though the Pruffians entered Poland with an army of 50,000 men, Stanislaus, who had come privately into Poland, was elected king by the intrigues of the primate, but was soon obliged to fly the kingdom; and Augustus being chosen and proclaimed king, his Saxon troops entered the kingdom.

Mean while the French king concluded a treaty with Spain and Sardinia; by which these powers agreed to declare war against the emperor. The French army, commanded by the duke of Berwick, passed the Rhine, and besieged and took fort Kehl. The king of Sardinia being joined by a body of French forces, commanded by marshal de Villars in Italy, took Tortona, Novara, Pavia, Milan, and some other places, before the conclusion of the year 1733.

In vain did the emperor implore the assistance of the maritime powers. The Dutch soon entered into a neutrality with France; and the English counsels being pacific, were employed in mediations, instead of affording the desired assistance. The French troops on the Rhine bore down all resistance; and the count de Bellicse besieged and took Trererbach. The duke of Berwick, at the head of 60,000 men, invested Philipsburg, while prince Eugene was obliged to remain on the defensive, in the strong camp at Heilbron. On the 12th of June 1734, the duke of Berwick, in visiting the trenches, was killed by a cannon-ball, and the command devolved upon the marquis d'As-

feldt, who carried on the siege with equal vigour and capacity. Prince Eugene having reinforced his army, marched towards the French lines; but found them so strong, that he would not hazard an attack; and all his military talents could not enable him to relieve the besieged. At length Philippsburg submitted, and prince Eugene retired to Heidelberg.

The imperial arms were not more successful in Italy. The infant Don Carlos had received so many invitations from the Neapolitan nobility, that he resolved to take possession of that kingdom, and entered the capital, amidst the acclamations of the people; while the count de Viscompti, the German viceroy, finding himself unable to cope with the invaders, retired, after having thrown succours into Gaeta and Capua. He assembled the militia, and formed a camp at Barletta. The count de Montemar marched against him with a body of forces; and on the 25th of May defeated him at Bitonto in Apuglia, where the Imperialists were entirely routed, and many principal officers taken prisoners. Don Carlos being proclaimed king of Naples, reduced Gaeta, and all the other parts of the kingdom that were garrisoned with the Imperial troops. He then invaded Sicily with an army of 20,000 men, under his victorious general the count de Montemar, whom he had created duke of Bitonto; who being favoured by the natives, proceeded in his conquests with great rapidity; and the Spaniards became possessed of the whole kingdom, except Messina, Syracuse, and Trepani, when

when the infant, visiting the island in person, reduced it almost without opposition.

While Don Carlos was thus employed in the conquest of Naples and Sicily, the Imperialists were hard pressed in Lombardy, by the united forces of France and Savoy. At length the marshal de Coigny, who commanded the forces of the confederates, was attacked by count Merci, the Imperial general, who charged in person at the head of his troops, and was killed soon after the battle began. But the prince of Wirtemberg assuming the command, both armies fought with great obstinacy, from eleven in the forenoon till four in the afternoon, when the Imperialists retired, leaving 5000 men dead on the field of battle. The loss of the allies was also very considerable. Some time after the Imperial forces, now commanded by count Konigsegg, surprized the quarters of marshal de Broglio, who, with great difficulty, escaped in his shirt; while the French retired with such precipitation, that they left all their baggage behind, and above 2000 were taken prisoners. They afterwards posted themselves under the walls of Guastalla, where they were vigorously attacked by the Imperialists, and a general engagement ensued, which lasted six hours, till at length the Imperialists retreated, after having lost 5000 men, including the prince of Wirtemberg, with many other officers of distinction. Nor was the loss sustained by the French much inferior.

In the mean while the French court paid so little regard to the English, that in the month

of November, an edict was published at Paris, commanding all the British subjects in France, who were not in actual employment, from the age of eighteen to fifty, either to quit the kingdom in fifteen days, or to enlist in some of the Irish regiments, on pain of being treated as vagabonds, and sent to the galleys. This edict was executed with such rigour, that the prisons of Paris were crowded with the subjects of Great Britain, who were taken by surprize; and being cut off from all communication with their friends, must have perished by cold and hunger, had not they been relieved by the charity of the Jansenists: but the earl of Waldegrave, ambassador from the king of Great Britain, made such vigorous remonstrances to the French ministry, upon this outrage against a nation with whom they had been so long in alliance, that they thought proper to set the prisoners at liberty, and to publish another edict, which explained away the meaning of the former.

While affairs were thus carried on upon the continent, the king of Great Britain augmented his land-forces; and warm contests were maintained in electing members for the new parliament. The two houses assembled on the 14th of January; and Mr. Onslow was re-elected speaker. The king, in his speech at the opening of the session, observed, that he had concerted with the States-General, such measures as were thought most adviseable for their common safety, and for restoring the peace of Europe; and also for employing, without

out loss of time, their joint and earnest instances, to bring matters to a speedy and happy accommodation. He observed, that while many of the principal powers of Europe were actually engaged in a war, Great Britain must be more or less affected with the consequences; and as the best concerted measures were liable to uncertainty, the nation ought to be prepared against all events; and he hoped, that his good subjects would not repine at the necessary means of procuring the blessings of peace, or of putting him in a condition to act that part, which it might be necessary for him to take. Upon this the house voted, that the land forces should be augmented to 25,744 effective men, and 30,000 should be raised for the sea service. But these resolutions were not taken without very warm disputes. The ministers opponents producing every argument they could advance against a standing army, and opposing, with extraordinary ardour, this augmentation, as a monstrous stride towards the establishment of arbitrary power.

On the 15th of May his majesty put an end to the session, and two days after, set out for his German dominions, after having appointed the queen regent. The good understanding between the courts of Madrid and Lisbon, had a little before been destroyed by a singular incident. The domestics of the Portuguese ambassador at Madrid having rescued a criminal from the officers of justice, all those concerned were, by the order of the king of Spain, dragged from the ambassador's house to prison, with

circumstances of rigour and disgrace. His Portuguese majesty resenting this affront, ordered reprisals to be made upon the servants of the Spanish ambassador at Lisbon. The two ministers abruptly withdrew to their respective courts, and the two monarchs expressed their mutual resentments. The king of Spain assembled a body of troops on the frontiers of Portugal; and his Portuguese majesty applied for assistance to the king of Great Britain. An envoy extraordinary was dispatched to London, and succeeded in his commission: for, soon after the king's departure, Sir John Norris sailed from Spithead with a powerful fleet, in order to protect the Portuguese against the Spaniards, and on the 9th of June arrived at Lisbon, where he was welcomed as a deliverer. Mr. Keene, the British envoy at the court of Spain, informed his Catholic majesty, that this fleet was sent to guard the coast of Portugal from insults, and secure the Brasil fleet, in which the merchants of Great Britain were deeply interested. It is probable, that this step prevented a rupture between the two crowns, and disposed the king of Spain to listen to terms of accommodation.

The war now began to be carried on with less vigour, both in Germany and Italy: towards the close of the year, the parties engaged agreed to a suspension of arms; and the next year a peace was signed by all the powers at war; in which it was agreed, that France should restore all the places taken from the empire: that the dutchy of Tuscany should be given

given to the duke of Lorraine, after the death of the grand duke; at which time Lorraine was to be put into the hands of his most Christian Majesty, and remain annexed to the French monarchy: that Stanislaus should be acknowledged king of Poland, enjoy all the honours of a crowned head, and then resign that kingdom voluntarily, in favour of king Augustus, who should restore all Stanislaus's estates in Poland: that Stanislaus should have the immediate possession of Lorraine and Barr; and that Don Carlos should be acknowledged king of Naples and Sicily.

In 1736 the act of James I. against conjuration and witchcraft, was repealed; and the famous act for laying a duty upon the retailers of spirituous liquors, commonly called the Gin Act, was, after long and warm debates, passed into a law. That act took place on the 29th of September following, when it being apprehended, that the putting a check upon the sale of that pernicious liquor, by which the lower part of the people were then much debauched, would occasion great disturbances, a double guard was mounted at Kensington, the guards at St. James's and Whitehall were reinforced; a guard was placed at the house of Sir Joseph Jekyll, master of the rolls, who had been the principal promoter of the bill; a detachment of life-guards and horse-grenadier-guards paraded in Covent Garden; and other methods were taken to suppress any tumult that might arise on that occasion; but happily every thing remained in the utmost tranquility. In this session

session was also passed the Mortmain Act, the Smuggling Act, and an act for building a bridge across the Thames at Westminster.

On the 17th of April his royal highness, Frederick prince of Wales, was married to her serene highness Augusta, princess of Saxe-Gotha, who arrived from Germany two days before. This event was followed by extraordinary rejoicings, and congratulations from both houses of parliament, the city of London, and the two universities. But in the next year, there unhappily arose a breach between them and the king. The princess had advanced to the last month of her pregnancy before the king and queen were informed of her being with child. She was twice conveyed from Hampton-court to St. James's palace, when her labour pains were approaching, and was at length delivered of a princess *, in about two hours after her arrival. The king being informed of this event, sent the earl of Essex to the prince to express his displeasure at his royal highness's conduct, which he considered as an indignity offered to himself and the queen: to inform him, that his whole conduct had for some time been so void of duty, that he had reason to be highly offended with him, and till he withdrew his regard and confidence from those by whose advice he had acted in this undutiful manner, he should not reside in the palace: it was therefore his majesty's pleasure, that he and his family should leave St. James's, when it could be

* This princess was named Augusta.

done without prejudice or inconvenience to the princess. In obedience to this order, the prince retired to Kew; and his majesty ordered, that none of the prince's attendants should be admitted at court. Some time before, a motion had been made in the house of commons for encreasing the settlement of the prince, which was only 50,000 l. to 100,000 l. besides the revenue arising from the principality of Wales. It was represented, that the late king had allowed that sum to his present majesty when prince of Wales; and that such a settlement was conformable to the practice of former times, and necessary to the independency of the heir apparent to the crown. This motion met with a vigorous opposition from Sir Robert Walpole, who urged the largeness of his present majesty's family, when prince of Wales; and represented the motion as an encroachment on the prerogative, and an officious intermeddling in the king's family affairs. The supporters of the motion observed, in return, that the allowance of only 50,000 l. was not sufficient to defray the prince's annual expences, which, by his majesty's own regulation, amounted to 63,000 l. The motion was, however, rejected by the majority: though in the same session an act passed for settling a dowry of 50,000 l. a year on the princess of Wales.

In July, a most daring insult against the government and the courts of justice, was committed in Westminster-hall, while those courts were sitting: the Gin-act, the Mortmain-act, the Westminster-bridge, and Smuggling-acts, with

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an act which had lately passed for borrowing 600,000*l.* from the sinking fund, being inclosed in a paper parcel, were blown up with gun-powder with a loud report, and dispersed, half burned, to the great terror of the judges and the counsel, who were then pleading. For this offence, one Nixon, a non-juring clergyman, was apprehended; and being afterwards convicted, was sentenced to pay 200 marks, to be imprisoned during five years, to give security for his good behaviour for five years after, and to be brought up to the several courts then sitting, with a libel round his head, denoting his crime.

One of the most extraordinary affairs which happened this year, and which drew after it very serious consequences, was that of captain Porteous, commander of the city-guard of Edinburgh, who, assisted with his men at the execution of a smuggler, and being provoked by the insults of the populace, who pelted him and his men with stones, rashly ordered them to fire upon the croud, without using the previous formalities of the law; by which precipitate order, several innocent persons lost their lives, and others were wounded. For this cruel action Porteous was committed to prison, tried for murder, convicted, and received sentence of death, which was to have been put in execution on the 8th of September. But upon his petition to the queen, then regent, his sentence was respited for six weeks. The common people of Edinburgh resented this lenity shewn to a criminal, who was the object of their
highest

highest resentment, and resolved to wreak their vengeance on Porteous, by depriving him of life on the very day which the judges had appointed for his execution. On the 7th, about ten at night, the people assembled in different bodies, and locked the gates of the city, to prevent the admission of the troops that were quartered in the suburbs, surprized and disarmed the town-guard, beat an alarm, broke open the prison door, dragged Porteous from thence, and early in the next morning hanged him on a sign, and then quietly dispersed to their several habitations. From the boldness, secrecy, and success of this enterprize, it was believed, that it was conducted by persons above the vulgar rank; and though a reward of 200 l. was offered by proclamation for the discovery of any person who acted in this tragedy, no discovery was made. In the ensuing session of parliament, this affair was brought before the house of lords; when lord Carteret insisted upon this murder as a flagrant insult upon the government, as well as a violation of the public peace. He appeared to think, that the magistrates had encouraged the riot, and that the city had forfeited its charter; he therefore proposed a minute enquiry into the particulars of the affair. He was seconded by the duke of Newcastle and the earl of Ilay; tho' this last nobleman differed in opinion from him, in thinking that the charter of the city could not justly be forfeited by the fault of the magistracy. Great debates ensued in the house of lords, and afterwards in the house of commons;

mons, notwithstanding which a bill passed, by which a fine of 2000 l. was laid on the city; and the provost of Edinburgh was incapacitated from holding any office of magistracy, either in Edinburgh, or in any other town in Great-Britain.

In the same session, a bill was brought in to limit the number of playhouses; to subject all dramatic works to the inspection of the lord chamberlain, and to compel the writers of these performances to take out a license for every production, before it could appear on the stage. Notwithstanding a vigorous opposition, this bill passed through both houses, with extraordinary dispatch, and obtained the royal assent.

On the 20th of November, 1737, at seven in the evening, died of a mortification in her bowels, Wilhelmina Carolina, queen consort of Great Britain; in the 55th year of her age, to the inexpressible grief of his majesty, the royal family, and the whole nation. She was regretted as a princess endowed with uncommon abilities, and possessed of many great and amiable qualifications, and as a pattern of conjugal virtue. Her remains were interred with great solemnity, on the 17th of December, in a new vault, in Henry the Seventh's chapel, in Westminster abbey.

On the 24th of January, 1738, his majesty opened the session of parliament with a short speech, and each house presented a warm address of condolence on the queen's death. After warm debates on a standing army, in which those who opposed the ministry endeavoured in
vain

vain to have the forces reduced, a petition was presented in relation to the depredations of the Spaniards in America. The Spaniards, ever since the treaty of Seville, had disputed the right of the English to cut logwood in the bay of Campeachy, and to gather salt in the island of Tortuga; tho' that right was acknowledged by implication, in all the treaties which had been lately concluded between the two nations. The captains of the Spanish guarda-costas had seized and detained a great number of British vessels, imprisoned their crews, and confiscated their cargoes, in violation of treaties, and in defiance of common justice and humanity. Not but that the Spaniards had, in their turn, reason to complain of the illicit commerce carried on by the English traders in Jamaica, and other islands, with their subjects on the continent of America. But this could not justify the unprovoked depredations and cruelties committed by the commanders of the guarda-costas. Walpole was very averse to a war, from his knowing that France and Spain were now closely united by politics, as well as by consanguinity; and he made no doubt that, in case of a rupture, they would join their forces against Great-Britain. However, petitions were delivered to the house, by merchants from different parts of the kingdom, expatiating on the violences to which they had been exposed, and imploring the relief of parliament. Among these was the case of captain Jenkins, master of a Scotch merchant ship, who being boarded by a Spanish guarda-costa, was treated in the most

barbarous manner. The Spaniards, after having rummaged his vessel for what they termed contraband goods, without finding any thing to justify their search, insulted Jenkins with the most opprobrious language, and cutting off one of his ears, bade him carry it to his king, and tell him, they would serve him in the same manner should an opportunity offer: they then tortured him with the most shocking cruelty, and even threatened him with immediate death. These papers being referred to a committee of the whole house, this innocent sufferer was examined, and being asked by a member, what he thought when he found himself in the hands of such barbarians? he bravely answered, "I recommended my soul to God, and my cause to my country." The behaviour of this honest seaman, the sight of his ear, which was produced, with his account of the indignities offered to the nation and sovereign of Great Britain, filled the house with indignation. Mr. Pulteney expatiated upon the wanton cruelty and injustice of the Spaniards; demonstrated from treaties the right of the British traders to the logwood of Campeachy, and the salt of Tortuga; exclaimed against the pusillanimity of the minister, and moved for such resolutions as would evince the resentment of an injured nation, and the vigour of a British parliament.

These resolutions were warmly combated by Sir Robert Walpole, who affirmed, that they would frustrate the minister's negotiations, intrench upon the king's prerogative, and precipitate the nation into an unnecessary and expensive

penfive war. In the mean time the house of lords presented an humble address to his majesty, with their resolutions with respect to the undoubted rights of the nation to a free navigation in America, and against the depredations and cruelties of the Spaniards; and concluded with promising his majesty, that in case his powerful instances for procuring reparation, satisfaction, and future security to his injured subjects, should fail of their due effect on the court of Spain, they would zealously and cheerfully concur in all such measures as should become necessary for the support of his majesty's honour, and the preservation of the navigation and commerce of the kingdom. His majesty, in his answer, expressed his sensibility of the injuries sustained by his trading subjects in America, and assured them of his care to procure satisfaction and reparation for their losses, and security for their future navigation. The address of the house of commons, and the king's answer, were much to the same effect.

On the 4th of June, 1738, the prince of Wales was delivered of his present majesty, whose birth was celebrated with uncommon rejoicings; addresses of congratulation were presented to the king by the two universities, and almost all the cities and towns of the kingdom. But the prince of Wales still laboured under his majesty's displeasure; and no person who visited the prince was admitted to the court of St. James's. His royal highness was divested of all the external marks of royalty, and lived like a private nobleman, cultivating the virtues of a

private life, and the enjoyment of conjugal felicity.

In the mean time, rear-admiral Haddock set sail for America, in order to give weight to the negociations of the British minister at the court of Madrid. The session of parliament was opened on the first of February, 1739, when the king informed both houses in his speech, that he had concluded a convention with the king of Spain, who had obliged himself to make reparation to the British subjects for their losses, by certain stipulated payments; that plenipotentiaries were appointed for regulating the grievances and abuses which had hitherto interrupted the commerce of Great Britain in the American seas; and for settling all matters in dispute, in such a manner, as for the future to prevent and remove all new causes of complaint. The convention was soon after published, in which it was agreed, that within six weeks after the day on which the ratifications were exchanged, two ministers plenipotentiaries should meet at Madrid, finally to regulate the pretensions of the two crowns, with respect to the trade and navigation in America, and to the limits of Florida and Carolina: that his Catholic majesty should pay to the king of Great Britain, the sum of 95,000 l. sterling, for a balance due to the crown and subjects of Great-Britain, after deducting the demands of the crown and subjects of Spain; and that his Catholic majesty should cause that sum to be paid at London, within four months after the ratifications were exchanged. This was the substance
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**PITT EARL OF
CHATHAM.**

of the convention, which alarmed the merchants and traders of Great Britain, filled the people with indignation, and raised a general outcry against the minister,

The eyes of the whole kingdom were now turned upon the house of commons. The two contending parties summoned their whole strength for the approaching dispute; and on the day appointed for considering the convention, four hundred members had taken their seats by eight in the morning. Several days were employed in reading papers, and obtaining information: at length Horatio Walpole having launched out in praise of the convention, moved for an address of approbation to his majesty. Now all the officers and adherents of the prince of Wales joined in the opposition; and he himself sat in the gallery to hear the debates. Sir Thomas Sanderson, treasurer to his royal highness, observed, that the Spaniards, by this convention, instead of giving us reparation, had obliged us to give them a general release. They had not even allowed the word satisfaction to be so much as mentioned in the treaty. Even the Spanish pirate, who had cut off the ear of captain Jenkins, and used the most insulting expression towards the person of the king; an expression which no man who had a regard for his sovereign could ever forgive; even this fellow was suffered to enjoy the fruits of his rapine, and remained a living testimony of the cowardly tameness and mean submission of Great Britain, and of the triumphant haughtiness and stubborn pride of Spain. Mr. Pitt also de-

claimed, with great energy, against the convention, as insecure, unsatisfactory, and dishonourable to Great Britain.

The ministers, in vindication of the convention, asserted, that the satisfaction granted by Spain, was adequate to the injury received: that it was only the preliminary of a treaty that would remove all causes of complaint: that war was always expensive and detrimental to a trading nation, as well as uncertain in its events: that France and Spain would certainly join their forces, in case of a rupture with Great Britain; and that war would favour the cause and designs of a Popish pretender. The house, upon a division, agreed to the address; but when a motion was made for its being recommitted, the two parties renewed the engagement with redoubled eagerness and impetuosity. Sir William Wyndham and Mr. Pulteney, poured all the thunder of their eloquence against the insolence of Spain, and the concessions of the British ministry. Sir Robert Walpole exerted all his fortitude and dexterity in defence of himself and his measures; and the question being put, the resolutions for the address were carried by a small majority. To such a degree of mutual animosity were both sides inflamed, that the most eminent members of the minority left the house, and returned no more to it during that session.

The dispute on the same subject, in the house of lords, was maintained with equal warmth: it was learned, long, and carried on with great spirit; but ended also in the defeat of those
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who stigmatized the treaty; and the house agreed to thank his majesty for his gracious condescension in laying the convention before them, and acknowledged his great prudence in bringing the demands of his subjects for their past losses to a final adjustment: at the same time they assured his majesty, that in case his just expectations should not be answered, the house would heartily and zealously concur in all such measures as should be necessary to vindicate his majesty's honour, and to preserve to his subjects the full enjoyment of all those rights to which they were entitled by treaty and the law of nations. At the head of those who voted against the address, was the prince of Wales: and his example was followed by six dukes, twenty-two earls, four viscounts, eighteen barons, four bishops, and sixteen proxies; and a spirited protest was entered and subscribed by thirty-nine peers.

Notwithstanding the parliamentary sanction thus given to the convention, the rumour of a war with Spain revived: for several measures taken by the government encouraged the hopes and expectations of the people. An English squadron in the Mediterranean took two rich Caracca ships: the king issued orders for augmenting his land-forces, and raising a body of marines; and many ships were put into commission; while admiral Vernon was sent to the West Indies, to assume the command of a squadron in those seas. This gentleman had rendered himself considerable in the house of commons, by loudly condemning all the measures
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of the ministry, and bluntly speaking his sentiments, without respect of persons. He was esteemed a good officer; and his boisterous manner, seemed to enhance his character. Having once commanded a squadron in Jamaica, he was well acquainted with those seas; and in a debate on the insults committed by the Spaniards, affirmed that Porto Bello, on the Spanish main, might be easily taken with only six ships. This was echoed from the mouths of all the members in the opposition; and the minister, in order to appease the clamours of the people, sent him as commander in chief to the West-Indies.

In the mean while, his Catholic majesty having ordered all the British ships in his harbours to be seized, the king of England declared war against Spain on the 23d of October. In this declaration, his majesty charged the king of Spain with breaking the late convention, by not paying in the time appointed, the stipulated sum admitted to be due to the subjects of Great Britain.

The beginning of the year 1740 was distinguished by a most intense frost, which began on Christmas-day, and continued till the latter end of February. The Thames was frozen over, and a multitude of people dwelled upon it in tents. A great number of booths were erected for the entertainment of the populace; a kind of fair was kept upon it, and an ox roasted whole upon the ice. As the navigation was entirely stopped, the watermen and fishermen, with all who work in the open air,
were

were deprived of the means of subsistence; and a stop was put to many kinds of manufactures, from its being impracticable to carry them on. The price of all sorts of provisions rose to a great height; even water was sold in the streets of London; and the poor could neither obtain food, or supply themselves with coals or other fuel, which advanced in proportion to the severity and continuance of the frost. In this season of distress, many unhappy families must have perished by cold and hunger, had not those in easy circumstances been inspired with a remarkable spirit of compassion and humanity. The streets were crowded with beggars, who were every where relieved with a liberal hand; and, to the honour of the English nation, uncommon pains were taken to discover and relieve those still more unhappy objects, who, from motives of false pride or ingenuous shame, strove to conceal their miseries. The solitary habitations of the widow, the fatherless, and the unfortunate, were visited by those who felt for the woes of their fellow creatures; and to such as refused to receive a portion of the public charity, the necessaries of life were privately conveyed, in a manner that could least shock their delicacy.

This scene of distress was soon followed by joy and triumph. On the 13th of March, a ship arrived from vice-admiral Vernon, with an account of his having taken, on the 21st and 22d of November, the town and forts of Porto Bello, with six ships only: that he had blown up the fortifications, spiked up above
 eighty

eighty iron cannon, and brought away a great number of brass ordnance, and much ammunition, leaving the harbour quite open and defenceless. This was no sooner known, than Bonfires blazed in every street, and the houses were illuminated: the lords and commons joined in an address of congratulation upon this success of his majesty's arms. The commons granted every thing that the crown thought proper to demand; provided for 28,000 land forces, with 6000 mariners; and enabled his majesty to equip a very powerful navy.

About the same time the king communicated to the house his intentions of marrying the princess Mary to prince Frederick of Hesse Cassel; on which the commons unanimously granted 40,000 l. for her fortune; and in May the ceremony of the marriage was celebrated by proxy; the duke of Cumberland representing the prince of Hesse; and in June the princess embarked for the continent. About the same time a sloop arrived from admiral Vernon, who, since his adventure at Porto Bello, had bombarded Carthagen, and taken the fort of San Lorenzo, on the river of Chagre, in the neighbourhood of his former conquest. In June also died Frederick William, king of Prussia, who was succeeded by Frederick, his eldest son, who afterwards distinguished himself as a warrior and legislator, and is still seated on the throne.

In the mean time preparations were vigorously carried on in England. A camp was formed on Hounslow-heath, and 6000 mariners lately

lately levied, were encamped in the isle of Wight, in order to be embarked for the West Indies. At the same time intelligence being received, that a strong fleet of Spanish ships of war waited at Ferrol for orders to proceed to their American settlements, Sir John Norris sailed with a powerful fleet, to dispute their voyage. Sir John hoisted his flag on board the Victory, in which his royal highness, the duke of Cumberland, embarked as a volunteer; but the Lion running foul of the Victory, did her some damage, which forced the fleet to put back; and the wind disappointing several other attempts to sail, they were obliged to lie inactive for the greatest part of the summer in Torbay; till advice being received, that the French and Spanish squadrons had sailed to the West Indies, the design against Ferrol was laid aside.

In September, a small squadron, commanded by commodore Anson, set sail for the South Seas, in order to act against the enemy on the coast of Chili and Peru; and co-operate occasionally with admiral Vernon, across the isthmus of Darien. A well-laid scheme, which was in part ruined by unnecessary delays and unforeseen accidents. The hopes of the nation were, however, chiefly centered in a formidable armament designed for the northern coast of New Spain, and the other Spanish settlements on that side of the Atlantic. A body of the marines, and detachments from some old regiments, were embarked in October at the isle of Wight, under the command of
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lord Cathcart, a nobleman of approved honour, and great experience in the art of war; and sailed under the convoy of Sir Chaloner Ogle, with a fleet of twenty-seven ships of the line, besides fire-ships, bomb-ketches, frigates, and tenders. They were likewise furnished with hospital-ships and store-ships, loaded with provisions, ammunition, and all sorts of warlike implements. Never was an armament more completely equipped, and never had the nation more reason to hope for extraordinary success.

At this time happened an event, which spread the flames of war over great part of Europe. The emperor Charles VI. the last prince of the house of Austria, died at Vienna, on the 20th of October, and was succeeded in his hereditary dominions, by the arch-duchess, Maria Teresa, his eldest daughter, who was married to the grand duke of Tuscany. But though her succession, in virtue of the pragmatic sanction, was guarantied by all the powers of Europe, it produced such contests as kindled a dreadful war in the empire. No sooner was the young king of Prussia informed of the emperor's death, than he entered Silesia at the head of 20,000 men. At the same time the elector of Bavaria refused to acknowledge the archduchess as queen of Hungary and Bohemia; alledging his pretensions to those countries, as the descendant of the emperor Ferdinand I. who was head of the German branch of the house of Austria.

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The death of the emperor was, a few days after, followed by that of the czarina Anne Iwanowna, who died in the 45th year of her age, after having bequeathed her crown to Iwan or John, the infant son of her niece, the princess Anne of Mecklenburg, who had been married to Anthony Ulric, duke of Brunswick-Lunenburg-Bevern.

The most remarkable incident of the next session was an open and personal attack upon the minister, who was become extremely unpopular. The people were greatly dissatisfied with the taxes under which they laboured, and saw their burthen daily encreasing; while no effectual attempt had been made to distress the enemy. The king of France, in violation of the treaties with England, had ordered the harbour and fortifications of Dunkirk to be repaired: his fleet had sailed to the West Indies, in conjunction with that of Spain: the merchants of England began to tremble for Jamaica: commerce was, in a manner, suspended by the pressing of sailors into the service, and by the embargo which had been laid upon ships in all the ports of Great Britain and Ireland. These causes of popular discontent, added to many other complaints which had been long repeated against the minister, and which were exaggerated by his enemies with unwearied industry, rendered him at length universally odious. This opportunity was seized by the country-party; and Mr. Sandys going up to Sir Robert Walpole in the house, informed him, that on Friday next he should bring a

Vol. XIII. N charge

charge against him in public. The minister appeared surprized; but after a short pause, politely thanked him for this previous notice, saying, he desired no favour, but only fair play. At the time appointed, Mr. Sandys stood up, and in a studied speech, entered into a long deduction of the minister's conduct; charged him with having endeavoured to support his own interest, and to erect a kind of despotic government, by the practice of corruption; with having betrayed the interest and honour of Great Britain, in the late convention; with having neglected to prosecute the war against Spain; and concluded with a motion for an address to the king, that he would be pleased to remove Sir Robert Walpole from his presence and councils for ever. Mr. Pelham, in answer, undertook to defend or excuse all the measures which the other had condemned. Sir John Barnard then entered the lists against this champion, and was supported by Mr. Pulteney, who pointed out and exposed all the material errors of the administration. Sir Robert spoke with great temper and deliberation, in his own behalf; and, with respect to the article of bribery and corruption, said, that if any one instance had been mentioned; if it had been shewn, that he ever offered a reward to any member of either house, or ever threatened to deprive any member of his vote or employment, in order to influence his voting in parliament, there might have been some grounds for this charge; but when it was so generally layed, he did not know what he could

could say to it, unless to deny it as generally, and as positively as it had been asserted. The debate lasted till three o'clock in the morning, when above sixty of the country-party having retired, the motion was rejected by a great majority.

In the house of lords, the duke of Argyle, who had by this time resigned all his places, declared open war against the ministry. In the beginning of the session, the king's speech was no sooner reported by the chancellor, than this nobleman standing up, moved, that a general address of thanks should be presented to his majesty, instead of a recapitulation of every paragraph of the king's speech, re-echoed to the throne, with expressions of blind approbation, implying a general concurrence with all the measures of the minister. On this subject he spoke with astonishing eloquence and impetuosity. The motion was supported by lord Bathurst, lord Carteret, the earl of Chesterfield, and lord Gower, who were out-voted by the opposite party, headed by the duke of Newcastle; and the address was composed in the usual strain. Several other motions were made with the same ill success. Among these, lord Carteret moved for an address, beseeching his majesty to remove Sir Robert Walpole from his presence and councils for ever; which produced a debate that lasted two days. The speech that ushered in this motion, explained the nature of every treaty, whether right or wrong, which had been concluded under the present administration; with the political connections subsist-

ing between the different powers in Europe. It exposed the weakness and misconduct of the minister, both in his foreign and domestic transactions; and was embellished with all the ornaments of rhetoric, and warmed with a spirit of patriotic indignation. The duke of Argyle, the lord Bathurst, and others, seemed to be animated with uncommon fervour on this subject; but the minister still triumphed by dint of numbers; yet thirty peers entered a vigorous protest; and from this opposition, Walpole's character and influence sustained such a rude shock, that his authority seemed to be drawing near a period. Immediately after the decision of this contest, the duke of Marlborough moved for a resolution, that an attempt to inflict any kind of punishment on any person, without allowing him an opportunity to make his defence, or without any proof of his having committed any crime or misdemeanor, is contrary to natural justice, the fundamental laws of the realm, and the ancient established usage of parliament; and is a high infringement of the liberties of the subject. He was seconded by the duke of Devonshire and the lord Lovell, and opposed by lord Gower and lord Talbot with great warmth, as an intended censure on the proceedings of the day; but upon a division, the motion was carried. This session was closed on the 25th of April 1744, and the king, having appointed a regency, set out in May for his German dominions.

By this time, Sir Chaloner Ogle had proceeded to action in the West Indies. He had anchored

anchored in the neutral island of Dominica, in order to take in wood and water, where unhappily the gallant lord Cathcart was carried off by a dysentery; upon which the command of the land forces devolved upon general Wentworth. As the fleet sailed along the island of Hispaniola, four large ships of war were discovered, and Sir Chaloner detached an equal number to give them chase, while he himself proceeded on his voyage. As those strange ships refused to bring to, lord Augustus Fitzroy, the commodore of the four English ships, saluted one of them with a broad-side, and a smart engagement ensued. They fought during the best part of the night, till in the morning the enemy hoisting their colours, appeared to be part of the French fleet, which had sailed from Europe under the command of the marquis d'Antin, with orders to assist the Spanish admiral de Torres in attacking and distressing the English ships and colonies. As war was not yet declared between France and England, hostilities ceased: the English and French commanders complimented each other, mutually excused themselves for the mistake which had happened, and parted as friends, with a considerable loss of men on both sides.

Sir Chaloner Ogle, on his arrival at Jamaica, joined vice admiral Vernon, who now found himself at the head of the most formidable fleet and army that had ever appeared in those seas, with full power to act at discretion. The united fleets consisted of twenty-nine ships of the line, with nearly an equal number of

frigates, fire-ships, and bomb-ketches, plentifully supplied with all kinds of provisions and stores. The number of seamen amounted to 15,000; that of the land forces, including the American regiment of four battalions and a body of negroes enlisted at Jamaica, did not fall short of 12,000. On the 9th of March admiral Vernon having sailed to Carthagena, the troops were landed on the island of Tierra Bomba, near the mouth of the harbour of Boca-chica, which was surprizingly fortified with castles, batteries, chains, cables, and ships of war. The British forces erected a battery on shore, with which they made a breach in the principal fort, while the admiral sent in a number of ships to divide the fire of the enemy. A breach being deemed practicable, the forces advanced to the attack, but the forts and batteries were abandoned; the Spanish ships which lay across the harbour's mouth were destroyed or taken, and the fleet entered without farther opposition. The forces were then reembarked with the artillery, and landed within a mile of Carthagena, where they were opposed by about 700 Spaniards, whom they obliged to retire. Mean while the admiral and general having contracted a hearty contempt for each other, instead of acting vigorously in concert, maintained a mutual reserve, and separate cabals. The general complained, that the fleet lay idle, while his troops were harrassed, and diminished by hard duty and diseases. The admiral upbraided the general with inactivity, and want of resolution to attack the fort of St. Lazar, which

which commanded the town, and might be taken by escalade. Wentworth, stimulated by these reproaches, resolved to try the experiment. His forces marched to the attack; but the guides being slain, they mistook their way, and advanced to the strongest part of the fortification, where they were also exposed to the fire of the town. Colonel Grant, who commanded the grenadiers, was mortally wounded; the scaling-ladders were found too short; the officers were perplexed for want of orders and directions; yet the soldiers, with surprising intrepidity, sustained a severe fire for several hours, and at length retreated, after having lost about 600 men; and the rainy season coming on with great violence, they were reimbarcked; and after all the forts and fascine batteries which defended the harbour were destroyed, with six Spanish men of war, the like number of galleons, and all the other shipping in the harbour, they returned to Jamaica.

The miscarriage of this expedition, in which 1600 men had been killed, or died of diseases, occasioned by the inclemency of the climate, was no sooner known in England, than it filled the kingdom with murmurs and discontent. Admiral Vernon afterwards anchored in the south-east part of Cuba, in a bay, to which he gave the name of Cumberland harbour: but though he was afterwards reinforced from England by four ships of war and about 3000 soldiers, he performed nothing worthy of the reputation he had before acquired; and the people began

to perceive, that they had mistaken his character.

Foreign affairs were now more embroiled than ever. The king of Prussia, taking advantage of the queen of Hungary's defenceless state, renewed his ancient pretensions to Silesia, of which his ancestors had been unjustly deprived; and promised to assist the queen with all his forces, in case she could comply with his demand: but this being rejected with disdain, he entered that country at the head of an army, and prosecuted his conquests with an extraordinary rapidity; took several towns, and fought the battle of Molwitz; when, after an obstinate dispute, the Austrians were obliged to retire with the loss of 4000 men. After this action, Brieg was surrendered to the victor, who soon after forced the important pass of Fryewalde, which was defended by 4000 Austrian Hussars. The king of Prussia afterwards received the homage of the Silesian states at Breslau, and returned to Berlin.

The elector of Hanover was alarmed at the success of the king of Prussia: the troops of that electorate were augmented: the auxiliary Danes and Hessians, in the pay of Great Britain, were ordered to be in readiness to march: the subsidies of 300,000 l. granted by parliament, was remitted to the queen of Hungary; and every thing seemed to presage the vigorous interposition of his Britannic majesty, when a treaty of neutrality, with respect to Hanover, was concluded; and the king of Great Britain engaged

engaged to vote for the elector of Bavaria, at the ensuing election of an emperor.

While the French minister at Vienna amused the queen with the strongest assurances of his master's friendship, Lewis XV. negociated with the different electors; and having secured a majority of voices, in favour of the elector of Bavaria, he sent him a commission, appointing him generalissimo of the French troops marching to his assistance, and engaged to support him with his whole power, in order to raise him to the Imperial throne. The elector, in his turn, promised, that after his elevation, he would never attempt to recover any of the towns or provinces of the empire which France had conquered: that he would renounce the barrier treaty; and agreed, that France should irrevocably retain whatever places she should subdue in the Austrian Netherlands. Another treaty was negociated between France and Prussia, importing, that the elector of Bavaria should possess Bohemia, Upper Austria, and the Tyrolese: that the king of Poland should have Moravia and Upper Silesia, the town of Neiss, and the county of Glatz.

The elector of Bavaria being now joined by the French forces under marshal Broglio, surprized the Imperial city of Passau; and entering Upper Austria, took possession of Lintz; then marching into Bohemia, advanced to Prague, which was taken in the night by scalade, by Maurice, count de Saxe, natural son of the king of Poland, who, on the most frivolous pretences, had also declared war against the

the queen of Hungary. The elector of Bavaria made his public entry into this capital, where he was proclaimed king of Bohemia.

The queen of Hungary now saw herself abandoned by all her allies, and appeared devoted to destruction : but retiring to Presburg, she, in a pathetic Latin speech to the states, so animated the Hungarian nobility, that they unanimously offered to sacrifice their lives and fortunes in her defence. The subsidy which she received from Great Britain, enabled her to pay her army, erect magazines, complete her warlike preparations, and put her strong places in a posture of defence. In December, her generals defeated count Thoring, at the pass of Scardingen ; and opening their way into Bavaria, laid the whole country under contribution, while count Khevenhuller, retook the city of Lintz, and drove the French out of Austria. To complete the scene of havoc, the Swedes declared war against Russia : but a large detachment of their army was defeated by the Russians near Willmenstrand ; and that fortress immediately after taken by assault. But a revolution now happening in Russia, by which the princess Elizabeth was proclaimed empress, a cessation of arms was agreed upon between the two powers.

The court of Spain seemed to have shaken off that indolence which had formerly disgraced their councils : for they no sooner learned the destination of commodore Anson, who set sail in the preceding year, than they sent Don Pizarro with a powerful squadron, upon the
same

same voyage, to defeat his design: but he could not weather a long and furious tempest near Cape-Horn, through which Mr. Anson proceeded into the South Sea, and was obliged to bear away for Rio de la Plata, with three ships in a shattered condition, after having lost two ships, and 1200 men by sickness and famine. Their privateers were however so successful, that in the beginning of this year, they had taken 407 ships belonging to the subjects of Great-Britain. The English traders had therefore too much cause to complain, considering the formidable fleets maintained for the protection of commerce. Sir John Norris had, twice this summer, sailed with a powerful squadron towards the coast of Spain, without taking any effectual step for annoying the enemy; and the inactivity of the British arms appeared more inexcusable, as the navy consisted of above a hundred ships of war, manned by 54,000 sailors; and the land forces of Great Britain, exclusive of the Danish and Hessian auxiliaries, amounted to 60,000 men.

The general discontent of the people was discovered by the election of members for the new parliament, which was carried on with great animosity by the court and country parties. The king returned to England in October, and the parliament meeting on the 1st of December, again chose Mr. Onslow their speaker. His majesty opened the session on the 4th, with a speech, in which he represented the dangers with which Europe was threatened, by the confederacy for subverting the house of Austria;

Austria; and recommended to both houses, a necessary concern for maintaining the liberties of Europe at that important crisis.

It soon appeared that the country party had obtained a majority in the house of commons, and that the power of Sir Robert Walpole was in the greatest danger. He knew that the majority of a single vote, might at any time commit him prisoner to the Tower; and that his safety depended on his dividing the opposition; he therefore employed all his credit and dexterity to produce this. A message was sent by the bishop of Oxford, to the prince of Wales, who was at the head of the opposition, importing, that if his royal highness would write a letter of condescension to the king, he and all his counsellors should be taken into favour; 50,000*l.* be added to his revenue; four times that sum be immediately disbursed for the payment of his debts; and in due time, a suitable provision be made for all his followers. Yet this proposal, though so extremely advantageous, the prince declined; and declared, that he would accept of no such conditions while Sir Robert continued to direct the public affairs. that he considered him as a bar between his majesty and the affections of his people; as the author of the national grievances, and the sole cause of that contempt in which Great Britain was held in all the courts of Europe. Sir Robert being thus disappointed, and finding that he had little power in determining disputed elections, upon an opposition of this kind, declared that he would never more sit
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And thus, and recommended to both houses a necessary concern for maintaining the liberties of Europe at that important crisis. It soon appeared that the contrary party had obtained a majority in the house of commons, and that the power of Sir Robert Walpole was in the greatest danger. He knew that the majority of a single vote might at any time turn him his prisoner to the Tower; and that his safety depended on his dividing the opposition. He therefore employed all his credit and authority to produce this. A message was sent by the bishop of Oxford, to the prince of Wales, who was at the head of the opposition, pressing, that if his royal highness would write a letter of commendation to the king, he and all his counsellors should be taken into favour, 20,000l. be added to his revenue; four times that sum be immediately disbursed for the payment of his debts; and in due time a provision be made for all his followers. This proposal, though to extremely advantageous, the prince declined; and desired, that he would accept of no such conditions, while Sir Robert continued to direct the public affairs: that he considered him as a paragon of the people; and the affection of his people; the author of the national grievances, and the sole cause of that contempt in which Great Britain was held in all the courts of Europe. Sir Robert being thus disappointed, and finding that he had little power in determining disputed elections, upon an opposition of this kind, declared that he would never more



WALPOLE,
EARL OF ORFORD.

On the 7th of February, the prince of Wales, attended by a numerous retinue of his attendants, waited on his majesty, who gave him

in that house; and the next day, which was the 3d of February, 1742, the king adjourned both houses of parliament till the 18th, of the same month. In this interim, Sir Robert was created earl of Orford, and resigned all his employments. Upon this occasion he displayed the most prudent policy, by separating the parts which composed the opposition. The country party consisted both of the tories and the discontented whigs, who had been disappointed in their own ambitious views, or really felt for the distresses of their country. These had acted upon very different principles, and a coalition was now proposed between the discontented whigs, and those of the same denomination who acted in the ministry. Walpole's place of chancellor of the exchequer was bestowed upon Mr. Sandys, who was also appointed one of the lords of the treasury; and the earl of Wilmington succeeded him as first commissioner of that board. Lord Harrington being created an earl, was declared president of the council; and in his room, lord Cartaret became secretary of state: Mr. Pulteney was sworn of the privy council, and afterwards created earl of Bath: the earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham was made head of the admiralty, in the room of Sir Charles Wager: and the earl of Stair, appointed field-marshal of all his majesty's forces, and ambassador extraordinary to the States General.

On the 7th of February, the prince of Wales, attended by a numerous retinue of his adherents, waited on his majesty, who gave him

him a gracious reception, and ordered his guards to be restored. The reconciliation between the king and the prince, together with the change of the ministry, were celebrated with public rejoicings all over the kingdom; and the utmost concord, appeared in the house of commons. But it was soon found that those who had declaimed the loudest against the public measures, had been solely influenced by motives of self-interest; and those motions which had been deemed most patriotic, on being now made to the house, were opposed by those who had formerly exerted themselves with the greatest eloquence in their defence. Among other instances, a motion being made by Sir Robert Godschall, for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the act for septennial parliaments, he was warmly opposed by Mr. Pulteney and Mr. Sandys, and the question passed in the negative. From this, and many other instances of the like kind, it appeared, that though the ministry had been changed, the same measures were pursued.

Great changes had by this time happened in the affairs of the continent. The elector of Bavaria was chosen emperor at Franckfort, and on the 12th of February was crowned by the name of Charles VII. In the mean time, the Austrian general, Khevenhuller, made himself master of Munich, the capital of Bavaria. But soon after count Saxe, with a detachment of French and Bavarians, reduced Egra, and the Austrians were obliged to evacuate Bavaria, though they afterwards returned; and in May,

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a detachment of French and Bavarians were defeated near the castle of Hilkersberg, on the Danube, by the Austrian garrison.

In the beginning of the year 1742, the queen of Hungary had two considerable armies in Moravia and Bohemia. Prince Charles of Lorraine advanced with 50,000 men, against the Prussians and Saxons, who immediately retired with precipitation from Moravia, which they had invaded. He then marched to Bohemia, where marshal Broglie, who commanded the French forces there, must have been overpowered, had not the king of Prussia received a strong reinforcement. The two armies advanced towards each other, and on the 17th of May came to a battle at Czaflow, in which the Austrians at first gained the advantage, and penetrated as far as the Prussian baggage; when the irregulars were so eagerly engaged in plunder, as to neglect every other consideration. The Prussian infantry rallied; the battle was renewed, and the victory, after an obstinate contest, was snatched out of the hands of the Austrians, who were obliged to retire with the loss of 5000 men killed, and 1200 taken prisoners. The Prussians paid so dear for the honour of remaining on the field of battle, that the king is said to have immediately conceived a disgust to the war, and to have discovered an inclination to accommodate all disputes with the queen of Hungary. The earl of Hyndford, ambassador from the court of Great-Britain, who accompanied him in this campaign, and was vested by her Hungarian

majesty with full powers, cultivated this favourable disposition ; and on the 1st of June a treaty of peace was concluded between these two powers at Bresslau ; by which the queen ceded to his Prussian majesty Upper and Lower Silesia, with the county of Glatz, in Bohemia ; and he charged himself with the payment of a sum lent by the merchants of London to the late emperor, on the Silesian revenues. He likewise engaged to observe a strict neutrality during the war, and to withdraw his forces from Bohemia, within fifteen days after the ratification of the treaty.

The king of Prussia having recalled his troops, marshal Broglio and the count de Belleisle abandoned their magazines and baggage ; and retiring with precipitation under the cannon of Prague, intrenched themselves in an advantageous situation. Prince Charles being joined by the other body of Austrians under prince Lobkowitz, encamped in sight of them, on the hills of Girsnitz ; and the grand duke of Tuscany arriving in the Austrian army, took the command. The French generals now offered to surrender Prague, Egra, and all the other places they possessed in Bohemia, on condition of their being allowed to march off with their arms, artillery, and baggage. This proposal was rejected, and Prague was invested on all sides. The king of France was no sooner informed of the condition to which Broglio and Belleisle were reduced, than he sent orders to marshal Mallebois, who commanded his army on the Rhine, to march to their relief.

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His troops were immediately put in motion, and in their march were joined by the French and Imperialists from Bavaria. Prince Charles of Lorrain receiving intelligence of their design, left general Festititz with 18,000 men to maintain the blockade of Prague, while he himself, with the rest of his army, advanced to the frontiers of Bohemia, where he was joined by count Khevenhuller. Marshal Mallebois, however, entered Bohemia, and marched with such precaution, that prince Charles could not bring him to an engagement. Meanwhile Festititz was obliged, for want of a sufficient force, to abandon the blockade of Prague. But Mallebois seeing the Austrians possessed of all the passes of the mountains, marched back to the Palatinate, and was miserably harassed in his retreat by prince Charles, who had sent a strong body under prince Lobkowitz to renew the blockade of Prague. Hence that city was soon reduced to the greatest distress. Broglio escaped from thence in the habit of a courtier; and the inhabitants had no other prospect than that of perishing by famine or war, when Belleisle left that city at midnight, with about 14,000 men and thirty pieces of artillery; and marched with such expedition, though it was in the middle of December, that he had gained the passes of the mountains before he was overtaken by the horse, and Hussars of prince Lobkowitz. A great number of his troops, however, perished in the snow, and many hundreds fainting with weariness, cold and hunger, were left to the mercy of the Au-

strian irregulars. After Belleisle had thus escaped, prince Lobkowitz returned to Pragne; and the small garrison left there, soon after surrendered upon honourable terms.

The king of Great Britain resolving to make a powerful diversion in the Netherlands, had, in the month of April, embarked 16,000 British troops for Flanders, which were some time after joined by 16,000 Hanoverians and 6000 Hessians, in British pay. The earl of Stair set out for Holland, as ambassador extraordinary, from whence he was to repair to Flanders, to take the command of those troops. His lordship could not, however, prevail on the States-General to make a diversion in favour of the queen of Hungary; though he concluded a defensive alliance with them for his majesty's German dominions. This year the duke of Holstein was declared successor to the throne of Russia; and the Swedish army being driven out of Finland, the Russians seized the whole province, and all their magazines.

The new ministry in England had sent admiral Matthews to assume the command of the British fleet in the Mediterranean; and at the same time he was invested with the character of minister plenipotentiary, to the king of Sardinia and the states in Italy. Immediately after he had entered upon his command, he directed captain Norris to destroy five Spanish gallies which had put into the bay of St. Tropez; and this was performed. In May he detached commodore Rowley with eight ships, to cruize off the harbour of Toulon; and a great
number

number of merchant-ships, belonging to the enemy, fell into his hands. In August, he dispatched commodore Martin with another squadron, to bombard the city of Naples, unless his Sicilian majesty would instantly recall his troops, which had joined the Spanish army, and promise to remain neuter during the war; upon which the king thought proper to comply. Admiral Matthews also landed some men at St. Remo, in the territories of Genoa, and destroyed the magazines that were erected for the use of the Spanish army.

In America, the new colony of Georgia was invaded by an armament from St. Augustine, consisting of thirty six ships, from which 4000 men landed at St. Simons, and began their march for Frederica; but general Oglethorpe, with a handful of men, took such wise precautions for opposing their progress, and harassed them in their march with such resolution and activity, that, after two of their detachments had been defeated, they abandoned the enterprize, and retired to their ships.

In England, the merchants complained, that their commerce was not properly protected; and the people were dissatisfied both with the conduct of the war, and with the war itself: they asserted, that their burthens were encreased to maintain wars in which they had no concern; and to pay the expence of pacific armies and inactive fleets. The war with Spain, which could be alone of advantage to England, was now become a secondary consideration, while the chief attention of the lord Carteret, the
new

new minister, was turned to the defence of the queen of Hungary. The parliament met on the 16th of November, when his majesty observed in his speech, that he had augmented the British forces in the Low Countries, with 16,000 Hanoverians, and with the Hessian auxiliaries; and said, that the honour and interest of his crown and kingdom, the success of the war with Spain, the re-establishment of the balance and tranquility of Europe, would greatly depend on the prudence and vigour of their resolutions. In this session great debates arose in the house of lords, on their taking into consideration the estimates of the expence occasioned by the forces in the pay of Great Britain. Upon this occasion, much asperity was used on the contract, by which the Hanoverians had been taken into pay, solely for the security of that electorate; and Hanover was represented as a gulph into which the treasures of Great Britain had, for some time, been thrown; while the associates of the new secretary pleaded the cause of Hanover, and insisted upon the necessity of a land war against France. About this time a treaty of mutual defence was signed at Westminster between his majesty and the king of Prussia.

Immediately after the prorogation of the parliament, in April 1743, the king embarked for Germany, accompanied by the duke of Cumberland, the lord Carteret, and other persons of distinction.

The queen of Hungary now seemed to triumph over all her enemies. The French were driven

driven out of Bohemia and part of the Upper Palatinate; prince Charles of Lorrain entered Bavaria at the head of the Austrian army, and, in April 1743, obtained a victory over a body of Bavarians at Braunau; and three bodies of Croats penetrating through the passes of the Tyrolese, ravaged the open country, to the very gates of Munich. The emperor in vain pressed the French general to hazard a battle; and thinking himself unsafe at Munich, retired to Augsburg; upon which Munich again fell into the hands of prince Charles; while marshal Seckendorf retreated with the Bavarian troops to Ingolstadt. The French being still pursued from place to place, the emperor found himself stripped of all his dominions, and repaired to Franckfort, where he lived in indigence and obscurity. He now made advances towards an accommodation with the queen of Hungary; and a convention was signed, in which it was agreed, among other things, that the emperor should remain neuter during the continuance of the present war, and that the French garrison of Ingolstadt should be permitted to withdraw, and be replaced by Bavarians; but that the Austrian general should be put in possession of all the magazines and artillery in that city belonging to the French. The governors of Ingolstadt and Egra, refusing to acquiesce in this capitulation, they were reduced by the Austrians, who found in Ingolstadt all the emperor's domestic treasure, jewels, plate, pictures, cabinets of curiosities, with the archives of the house of Bavaria, and the
 most

most valuable effects belonging to the nobility of that electorate, with a prodigious train of artillery, and a vast quantity of arms, ammunition, and provisions.

The troops assembled by the king of Great Britain began their march for the Rhine in the latter end of February. The French king, willing once more to exert himself, ordered marshal de Noailles to assemble 60,000 men upon the Mayne, to prevent the junction of the British forces with prince Charles of Lorraine. The marshal de Noailles having secured the towns of Spire, Worms, and Oppenheim, passed the Rhine in the beginning of June, and posted himself on the east side of that river, the earl of Stair advanced towards him. The duke of Cumberland had already come to make his first campaign; and his majesty arrived in the camp on the 9th of June. His army, amounting to above 40,000 men, were, from the disposition of the French, in danger of starving: but finding that a reinforcement of 12,000 Hanoverians and Hessians had reached Hanau, he resolved to march thither; but had no sooner left Aschaffenburg than it was seized by the French; and he had not marched above three leagues when he found that 30,000 of the enemy had passed the river farther down, and were drawn up in order of battle, at the village of Dettingen, to dispute his passage. Thus his troops were confined in a narrow plain, bounded by hills and woods on the right, and flanked on the left by the river Mayne; on the opposite side of which the French had erected

erected batteries that annoyed the allies on their march ; while, in the front, was drawn up a considerable part of the French army, with a narrow pass before them ; a wood on their left ; Dettingen on their right, and a morass in the centre. The duke de Gramont, who commanded the French, passed the defile, and advancing towards the allies, a battle ensued. The French horse charged with such impetuosity, that some regiments of British cavalry were put in disorder ; but the infantry of the allies fought with such intrepidity, under the eye of their sovereign, as soon determined the fate of the day ; and the French were obliged to repass the Mayne with great precipitation, after having lost above 5000 men, killed, wounded, or taken ; while the loss of the allies amounted only to 2000. The duke of Cumberland, who gave signal proofs of courage, was shot through the calf of the leg. The king exposed his person to a severe fire of cannon, as well as musquetry ; riding between the first and second lines, with his sword drawn ; and encouraging the troops to fight for the honour of England. Immediately after the battle, the army being in want of provisions, the earl of Stair sent a trumpet to Noaillies, recommending the sick and wounded that were left in the field to his care, and the king continued his march to Hanau, where he was joined by the reinforcement ; and afterwards passing the Rhine at Mentz, his majesty fixed his head quarters in the episcopal palace at Worms.

A treaty

A treaty was soon after concluded at Worms, between his Britannic majesty, the queen of Hungary, and the king of Sardinia. That princess engaged to maintain 30,000 men in Italy: the king of Sardinia was to employ 40,000 infantry and 5000 cavalry, in consideration of his having the command of the combined army, and receiving an annual subsidy from Great Britain of 200,000 l. The queen also yielded to him the city of Placentia, with several districts in the dutchy of Pavia, and in the Novarese; and also Final, possessed by the republic of Genoa, which it was hoped would give it up on being repayed the purchase-money, which amounted to 300,000 l. This sum George promised to disburse, and also to maintain a strong squadron in the Mediterranean, to act in concert with his Sardinian majesty.

The campaign in Italy proved unfavourable to the Spaniards. Count Gages, who commanded the Spanish army in the Bolognese, amounted to 24,000 men, passed the Panaro in the beginning of February, and advanced to Campo-Santo, where he encountered the Imperial and Piedmontese forces, commanded by the counts Traun and Aspremont. The two armies were nearly of equal strength, and the action was obstinate and bloody. The loss of the Spaniards amounted to 4000 men, and that of the confederates was little inferior. Some cannon and colours were taken on both sides; and each claimed the victory. Admiral Matthews, during this summer, overawed all the states that bordered on the Mediterranean; and about

about the end of June, finding that fourteen xebecs, loaded with artillery and ammunition for the Spanish army, had arrived at Genoa, he sailed thither, and required of that republic, either to oblige these vessels with their stores to quit the harbour, or to sequester their lading till the establishment of a general peace. After some dispute it was agreed, that the cannon and stores should be deposited in the castle of Bonifacio, on a rock, at the south end of Corsica; and that the xebecs should have leave to retire without molestation. The Spanish army was no sooner in motion, than Matthews ordered some troops and cannon to be disembarked for the security of Villa-Franca; and stores having been landed at Civita Vecchia, for the use of the Spanish forces under count Gages, the English admiral considered this as a violation of the neutrality which the pope had professed; and accordingly sent a squadron to bombard the place. Rome was instantly filled with consternation; but the pope having recourse to the good offices of his Sardinian majesty, that prince interposed, and the English squadron withdrew. In the mean time, the captains of single cruising vessels, by their vigilance and activity, interrupted the commerce of Spain; cannonaded and burned some towns on the sea side, and kept the whole coast in continual alarm.

Mean while, the discontent of the people of England was artfully inflamed by the anti-ministerial writers, who not only exaggerated the burthens under which the people laboured, but

endeavoured, by the arts of calumny and misrepresentation, to excite a national quarrel between the English and Hanoverians. They boldly affirmed, that in the last campaign, the counsels of lord Stair had been slighted, while those of foreign officers, every way inferior to him, were followed: that the British troops were daily insulted by their own mercenaries, who received particular marks of royal favour: that the king himself appeared at Dettingen in a Hanoverian scarf, and that his electoral troops were of little service in that battle. Though the most material of these assertions were false, they made a strong impression on the minds of the people; and when the parliament met, in the beginning of December, the earl of Sandwich made a motion in the house of peers, for an address, beseeching his majesty to discontinue the Hanoverian troops in British pay, in order to remove the popular discontent, and stop the murmurs of the English troops abroad. He was supported by the duke of Bedford, the earl of Chesterfield, and all the leaders in the opposition, who did not fail to insist upon all the above circumstances, and to exclaim against the folly of exhausting the national treasure, to enrich a hungry and barren electorate. These were, however, the suggestions of spleen and animosity: for, supposing the necessity of England's engaging in a continental war, the Hanoverians were certainly the most natural auxiliaries of Great Britain; and it is certain, that those troops were under the strictest discipline, and that in the day of battle, they behaved with

as much courage and alacrity as any other body of men ever displayed on the like occasion. The motion was therefore rejected.

In the mean time, the dissensions of the parliament were suddenly suspended, by an event that united both parties in the prosecution of the same measures. This was the news of an intended invasion. The parliamentary disputes, and the loud clamours of the people, had made the French ministry imagine, that the nation was ripe for a revolt; and this opinion was corroborated by the assertions of the Jacobites, whose strong prejudices and warm imaginations, made them see every thing through the medium of passion and party; whence they informed the court of Versailles, that if the Chevalier de St. George, or his eldest son, Charles Edward, should appear at the head of a French army in Great Britain, a revolution in his favour would instantly follow. This intimation was agreeable to cardinal de Tencin, who had succeeded Fleury, as prime minister of France, who had died a little before. He concerted measures with the Chevalier de St. George; and he being too much advanced in years to engage in such an expedition, agreed to delegate his pretensions and authority to his son Charles.

The French king appointed count Saxe commander of the troops designed for this expedition, which amounted to 15,000 men, and were to be landed under convoy of a fleet equipped at Brest, commanded by M. de Roquefeuille, an experienced officer. This admiral sailed from Brest in January, 1744, directing his

course up the English channel, with twenty ships of war. They were immediately discovered by an English cruizer, which ran into Plymouth; and intelligence being conveyed by land to the admiralty, Sir John Norris was ordered to take the command of the Squadron at Spithead, with which he sailed round to the Downs; where, being joined by some ships of the line from Chatham, he had a larger fleet under his command than that of the enemy. Several regiments now marched to the southern coast of England; the forts at the mouth of the Thames and the Medway were put in a posture of defence; and the militia of Kent assembled. On the 15th of February, the king sent a message to both houses of parliament, intimating the arrival of the Pretender's son in France, and the appearance of a French fleet in the English channel. In return, they joined in an address, in which they declared their indignation and abhorrence of the design in favour of a Popish pretender; and assured his majesty, that with the utmost zeal and unanimity they would take such measures as would enable him to frustrate and defeat so insolent an attempt. Addresses of the same kind were presented by the city of London, both universities, the principal towns of Great Britain, the clergy, the dissenting ministers, and the quakers. Six thousand auxiliaries, which the States General were obliged by treaty to furnish on such an occasion, were demanded, and granted with great alacrity and expedition. The earl of Stair now offered his services to the government, and was reinvested in

in the chief command of the forces of Great Britain. His example was followed by several noblemen of the first rank; and orders were sent to bring over 6000 of the British troops from Flanders. His majesty was again addressed by parliament to augment his forces by sea and land: the *habeas corpus* act was suspended for six months; and a proclamation was issued for putting the laws in execution against Papists and Nonjurors.

In the mean while, the preparatious against England were carried on at Dunkirk and Boulogne, under the eye of the young pretender; and 7000 men were embarked. M. de Roquefeuille sailed from Brest, and proceeded up the channel as far as Dungeness, on the coast of Kent; whence he detached five ships to hasten the embarkation at Dunkirk: but on the 24th of February, Sir John Norris, with the British fleet, doubling the south foreland, though the wind was against him, took the opportunity of the tide to endeavour to come up with the French; but the tide failing, he was obliged to anchor two leagues short of the enemy. The French admiral resolving to avoid an engagement, set sail at sun-set for the place from whence he came, in which he was favoured by a very hard gale of wind, which at once saved the French fleet, and entirely disconcerted their design of invading England; for many of their transports were driven ashore or destroyed, and the rest so damaged, that they could not be speedily repaired. The pretender being thus disappointed, resolved to wait for a more favourable

opportunity. The French now declared war against the king of Great Britain; and on the 30th of March, 1744, war was proclaimed at London against France.

An action had by this time happened in the Mediterranean, between the British fleet, under the command of admiral Matthews, and the combined fleets of France and Spain, which had for some time been blocked up in the harbour of Toulon. On the 9th of February, they were observed standing out of the road, to the number of thirty-four sail: the English admiral instantly weighed from Hieres bay, and the fleets came to an engagement on the 11th, Mathews attacked Don Novarro, the Spanish admiral, whose ship, the Real, was a first-rate, with above 100 guns. Rear-admiral Rowley singled out M. de Court, who commanded the French squadron; and a few captains followed their example; while vice-admiral Lestock, with his whole division, remained at a great distance a-stern. The French and Spaniards would have avoided an engagement, as the British squadron was superior to them in strength and number, and M. de Court made the best of his way towards the freights mouth; but having orders to protect the Spanish fleet which sailed heavily, he made sail and laid to, by turns; so that the British admiral could not engage them in proper order; and as they out-sailed his ships, he began to fear their escaping him, should he wait for vice-admiral Lestock, who continued far a-stern. Under this apprehension, he made the signal for engaging, while
that

that for the line of battle was still displayed, which naturally produced confusion. The fight was maintained with great vivacity by the few who engaged. The Real being quite disabled, and lying like a wreck upon the water, Matthews sent a fire-ship to destroy her; but the ship ordered to cover the fire-ship, did not obey the signal; so that the captain of this vessel was exposed to the fire of the enemy; yet he continued to advance till he found his ship sinking; when, being within a few yards of the Real, he boldly set fire to the fuses, and the ship was immediately in flames; in the midst of which he himself, his lieutenant, and twelve men perished. This was also the fate of a Spanish launch, which had been manned with fifty sailors, to prevent the fire-ship's running on board the Real. One Spanish ship of the line struck to captain Hawke, who sent a lieutenant to take possession of her: yet she was afterwards retaken by the French squadron, but was found so disabled, that they deserted her; and the next day Matthews ordered her to be burned. At night the action ceased; and the admiral's ship being much damaged, he removed his flag into another. In this engagement fell captain Cornwall, who exhibited remarkable proofs of courage and intrepidity. The next day the enemy appeared to leeward, and the admiral gave chase till night; when he brought to, that he might be joined by the ships a-stern. On the 13th, they were perceived again at a considerable distance, and pursued till the evening. In the morning of the 14th, twenty sail
of

of them were seen distinctly, and by noon, Lestock, with his division, had gained of them considerably : but admiral Matthews displayed the signal for leaving off chace, and bore away for Port-Mahon, to repair the damage he had suffered ; while the combined squadrons continued their course towards the coast of Spain. Matthews, on his arrival at Minorca, accused Lestock of having misbehaved on the day of action ; suspended him from his office, and sent him prisoner to England ; where he, in his turn, accused Matthews. He had been treated superciliously by that admiral ; and it is evident that, in order to gratify his resentment, he betrayed the interest and glory of his country ; for there is no doubt, but that he might have come up in time to engage, in which case, the fleets of France and Spain would probably have been destroyed. Matthews himself afterwards sacrificed his duty to his resentment, in restraining Lestock from pursuing and attacking the combined squadrons, when being almost disabled, and in manifest disorder, they would have fallen an easy prey, had they been vigorously attacked. Thus the glory of England suffered from the personal animosity of these two commanders. This justly became the subject of a parliamentary enquiry in England ; and both were tried by a court martial : when several commanders of ships were cashiered ; yet vice-admiral Lestock was honourably acquitted ; and admiral Matthews, who had rushed into the hottest part of the engagement, was rendered incapable of serving for the future

ture in his majesty's navy: decisions that can only be accounted for, from prejudice and faction.

In the mean while, the emperor had solicited the mediation of Great Britain, for compromising the differences between him and the court of Vienna; and offered to dismiss the French auxiliaries, provided the Austrians would evacuate his hereditary dominions. The duke of Cumberland and lord Carteret, actually agreed upon preliminaries, by which his Imperial majesty engaged to throw himself into the arms of the maritime powers, and to resign all pretensions to the succession of the house of Austria, on condition of his being re-established in the possession of his dominions, acknowledged as emperor by the queen of Hungary, and his receiving a monthly subsidy for his support, on account of his territories being exhausted and impoverished by the war. Though these preliminaries were settled, they were not signed. The court of Vienna was unwilling to part with their conquests in Bavaria and the Upper Palatinate. The queen trusted too much to the valour of her troops, and to the wealth of her allies, to listen to such terms of accommodation; and the negotiation was dropped. The emperor surrounded with distress, renewed his application to the king of Great Britain; and though he declared that he would refer his cause to the determination of the maritime powers, all his advances were discountenanced. Thus the British ministry, to gratify the queen of Hungary,

gary, rejected the fairest opportunity of terminating the war in Germany with honour and advantage, and easing the people of the burthen under which they laboured.

The forlorn situation of the unfortunate emperor now excited the compassion of several powers. They resented the insolence with which the head of the empire had been treated by the court of Vienna, and were alarmed at the encreasing power of a family distinguished by its pride and ambition. This gave rise to the treaty at Franckfort, concluded between the emperor, the king of Prussia, the king of Sweden, as landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, and the elector Palatine, who engaged to preserve the constitutions of the empire, according to the treaty of Westphalia; to support the emperor in his rank and dignity, and to employ their good offices with the queen of Hungary, to induce her to acknowledge the emperor, to restore his hereditary dominions, and to give up the archieves of the empire, that were in her possession. In the mean time, the French king declared war against the queen, on pretence of her being obstinately deaf to all terms of accommodation, and being determined to carry the war into France. Thus the war in Germany, which had been almost extinguished in the last campaign, was revived, and raged with redoubled violence.

Lewis XV. had assembled an army in the Netherlands, commanded by count Saxe, of 120,000 men, with a formidable train of artillery. The forces of the allies, consisting

sisting of English, Hanoverians, and of the Dutch who had now joined the confederacy, amounted to 70,000 men, who being unable to retard the progress of the enemy, posted themselves behind the Schelde. Lewis attended by his favourite ladies, with all the pomp of eastern luxury, arrived at Lisle on the 12th of May, where he reviewed his army, and his troops, soon after, invested Menin, which, in seven days, surrendered upon capitulation. Ypres, Fort-Knock, and Furnes, suffered the same fate; and on the 29th of June, he entered Dunkirk in triumph.

He had taken such measures for the defence of Alsace, in which were considerable armies, commanded by Coigni and Seckendorf, that he thought he had nothing to fear from the Austrians in that quarter. But all his measures were defeated by the skill and activity of prince Charles of Lorraine, who passing the Rhine, made himself master of Haguenau and Saverne; secured the passes of Lorraine, and laid all the country of lower Alsace under contribution. The king of France being informed of this, sent a detachment of 30,000 men from his army in Flanders, to reinforce that under the marshal de Coigni, and set out himself, that he might in person check the progress of the enemy; but was taken ill at Metz in Lorraine, and his life was despaired of.

In the mean time, the schemes of the Austrian general were frustrated by the king of Prussia, who at the head of a numerous army, entered the electorate of Saxony, declaring that

that his design was to act as an auxiliary to the emperor, and to establish the quiet of Germany. He penetrated into Bohemia, and undertook the siege of Prague, the governor and garrison of which surrendered themselves prisoners of war. He afterwards reduced the greatest part of Bohemia. He was, however, soon obliged to relinquish his conquests. Prince Charles of Lorrain having been recalled from Alsace, repassed the Rhine in the face of the French army; then marched to the Danube; laid the Upper Palatinate under contribution, and entering Bohemia, joined the troops under Bathiani. The king of Poland, elector of Saxony, now declaring in favour of her Hungarian majesty, prince Charles of Lorrain, was reinforced by 20,000 Saxon troops, and his combined army, being thus superior to that of his Prussian majesty, that prince retired before him; and evacuating all the places he had garrisoned in Bohemia, retreated with precipitation into Silesia, and put his troops into winter quarters.

Mean while, count Seckendorf marching with a strong army into Bavaria, drove the Austrians out of that electorate, and the emperor regained possession of Munich his capital. The French army invested the strong and important city of Friburg, defended by general Darnitz, at the head of 9000 veterans. The French king, who was now perfectly recovered from his illness, arrived in the camp; and the siege was carried on with the utmost vigour, till the place was reduced to a heap of ruins,
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and one half of the garrison destroyed ; when the remainder were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war, after the trenches had been opened forty-five days, during which, they had killed above 15,000 of the besiegers. With this conquest, the French king closed the campaign.

In Italy, the king of Naples having assembled an army, joined count Gages, and published a manifesto in vindication of his violating the neutrality he had promised to observe. In the mean time, prince Lobkowitz detached a strong body of forces under count Soro and general Gorani, who made an irruption into the province of Abruzzo, and took the city of Aquila, where they distributed a manifesto, in which the queen of Hungary exhorted the Neapolitans, to shake off the Spanish yoke, and submit again to the house of Austria. In August count Brown, at the head of an Austrian detachment, surprized Velletri in the night, upon which the king of the two Sicilies, with the duke of Modena, escaped through a postern with great difficulty, and repaired to the quarters of count Gages, who rallied the fugitives, dispelled the panic and confusion which began to prevail in the camp, and made a disposition for cutting off the retreat of the Austrians : but count Brown finding himself in danger of being surrounded, with great art and gallantry secured his retreat, and carried off a prodigious booty, after killing 3,000 Spaniards, and taking 800 prisoners ; while the Austrians lost only about 600 men. The

heats of Autumn, however, proved so fatal to the Austrians, that prince Lobkowitz saw his army daily mouldering away, without any possibility of their being recruited. He therefore decamped, marched under the walls of Rome, passed the Tiber at Ponte-Molle, and had just time to break down the bridge behind him, when the van-guard of the Spaniards and Neapolitans appeared, took part of his rear-guard, and his army suffered greatly by desertion: yet with equal skill and expedition he continued his retreat, passed the mountains of Gubio, and reached the Bolognese.

In Savoy and Piedmond, Don Philip being joined by the French army, under the prince of Conti, passed the Var, reduced the castle of Apremont; and, without opposition, entered the city of Nice. In April, they attacked the king of Sardinia, who, with 20,000 men, was strongly intrenched among the mountains at Villa Franca; and, after an obstinate and bloody battle, obliged him to abandon his posts, and embark on board the British fleet, which transported him and his troops to Vado. Don Philip intended to penetrate through the territories of Genoa, into the Milanese; but admiral Matthews sent to inform that republic, that if the combined army was suffered to pass through their dominions, his master would consider it as a breach of their neutrality. The senate being intimidated, entreated the princes to desist from their design, and they desisted towards Piedmont, where they assaulted the strong post of Chateau Dauphiné, and after a desperate

rate attack, in which they lost 4000 men, the place was taken. Soon after the garrison of Demont surrendered at discretion; and the whole country of Piedmont was laid under contribution. The combined army then invested the town of Coni; and the king of Sardinia being reinforced by 10,000 Austrians, advanced to its relief, and a battle ensued, which was maintained with great vigour on both sides till night; when his majesty, finding it impracticable to force the enemy's intrenchments, retired in good order to his camp at Murasso. The siege was continued till the latter end of November; when fresh supplies being thrown into the place, the princes abandoned their enterprize, leaving their sick and wounded behind them; and retreated with great precipitation into Dauphiné; by which means his Sardinian majesty again obtained the possession of Piedmont.

In the month of June, commodore Anson returned from his voyage of three years and nine months, in which he had surounded the terraqueous globe. His expedition affords a fine instance of the power of perseverance. He set sail with five ships of war, a frigate, and two store-ships, in order to annoy the Spanish settlements of Chili and Peru. After having suffered the most violent tempests, he doubled Cape Horn, but the rest of his fleet were dispersed or wrecked, his crew deplorably disabled by the scurvy, and his own ship with difficulty arrived at the delightful island of Juan Fernandez, where he remained for some time:

in order to improve so elegant a retreat, he ordered European fruits and seeds to be sown, which encreased to such a surprizing degree, that some Spaniards, who landed there several years after, could not forbear acknowledging this act of generosity and benevolence. Here he was joined by the Gloucester, a ship of the line, a sloop and a pink loaded with provisions. These were the remains of his squadron. He made prize of several vessels; and landing a few soldiers by night at the city of Payta, filled the whole town with terror and confusion. The governor, the garrison, and the inhabitants, were soon put to flight; and for three days a small number of English kept possession of the town, and carried on board their ships treasures and merchandize to an immense value; and the Spaniards refusing to ransom the town, saw it in flames. This small squadron now sailed to Panama, situated on the streights of Darien, in expectation of being joined by admiral Vernon, who, it was supposed, would have succeeded on the opposite side of those streights. Thus the Spanish empire in America was attacked on both sides; but the scheme of extending the conquests of the English there failed, from Vernon's want of success. He now set sail from the coast of Mexico, through the great ocean which lies between that coast and the continent of Asia, in hopes of meeting with one of those rich Spanish ships, which every year pass from one continent to the other. In this passage they were again afflicted with the sea scurvy, which

raged

raged in the most dreadful manner; when the Gloucester being leaky, and the number of his hands greatly decreased, he set her on fire in the midst of the ocean; and his other vessels having been before destroyed for want of men to navigate them, he had nothing now remaining but his own ship the Centurion of sixty guns, and all the crew were in a most deplorable situation. But at length he reached the deserted island of Tinian, where he found plenty of refreshments. This retreat saved his men: for, in that beautiful island, they found every thing proper for restoring health to the sick. The sailors being thus refreshed, he proceeded towards China; and entering the river of Canton, ordered his ship to be sheathed, and found means to procure a reinforcement of soldiers. He then set sail from Canton with the hope of intercepting the rich annual ship which sailed between Acapulco in Mexico, and Manilla, one of the Philippine islands, and thus ventured once more into the same ocean, where he had experienced such a variety of distress. At length he discovered the galleon he so ardently expected. This vessel was formed as well for the purposes of war as of merchandize. It had thirty-six guns, besides twenty-eight patereroes, each of which carried a four pound ball, and 550 men, while the commodore's crew did not exceed half that number. The engagement soon began, and after a furious action he took this prize, which was loaded with treasure and effects to the value of 313,000 l. The conqueror returned to Canton with his

prize. He there maintained the honour of his country, in refusing to pay the imposts which were laid on merchant ships; and insisted, that his vessel, being an English ship of war, was exempt from that duty. From Canton he proceeded by the Cape of Good Hope, and prosecuted his voyage to England, where he was received with all that honour which his prudence and perseverance deserved, and was afterwards created a peer, and made first lord of the admiralty.

In July 1744, Sir John Balchen, an admiral of distinguished bravery, sailing, in order to find an opportunity of attacking the French fleet at Brest, was overtaken in the bay of Biscay by a violent storm, which drove his ships up the English channel; but Sir John's own ship, the *Victory*, which was esteemed the most beautiful first-rate man of war in the world, foundered at sea, and this gallant commander perished, with all his officers, volunteers, and crew, amounting to eleven hundred choice seamen.

On the 4th of October the marshal duke de Belleisle, and his brother, halting in their way to Berlin, at a village in the forest of Hartz, dependent on the electorate of Hanover, they were apprehended by the bailiff of the place, and brought to England. They resided at Windsor till the following year; when, being allowed the benefit of the cartel established between Great Britain and France, they were released.

There



LORD ANSON.

There now happened another revolution in the ministry. Lord Carrington, who had obtained the office of Earl of Granville, had entered into a political alliance with the Duke of Devonshire, and his brother Lord Pelham, being appointed to the office of Secretary of State, was naturally connected with their political interests. This duty required a political alliance with the Duke of Devonshire and his measures. To this course, however, Lord Carrington, the architect of the Broad Bottom, was not inclined. He had been established on a constitutional basis, and comprehending individuals of every party, without distinction of party. The Duke of Devonshire, perceiving it impossible for him to withstand such an opposition in parliament, resigned his employment; and the Earl of Granville succeeded him as Secretary of State. The Duke of Bedford was made Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Chesterfield Secretary of the Treasury of Ireland; the Lord of the Treasury and Cobham were re-established in the office; they had resigned; and Mr. Luton was appointed a commissioner of the treasury. The death of the unhappy emperor Charles VI. which happened in January 1740, gave an entire change to the face of affairs in Europe. The great Duke of Tuscany, formerly a candidate for the Imperial crown, was now a candidate for the Imperial crown. His pretensions were warmly opposed by the Emperor and his allies. The court of Vienna, taking advantage of the late Emperor's death, sent an army to invade Poland, and the Emperor, who was now in the last stage of his illness, died.

There now happened another revolution in the ministry. Lord Carteret, who had obtained the title of earl of Granville, had entirely forfeited his popularity; and the duke of Newcastle, and his brother lord Pelham, being very powerful from their parliamentary interest, engaged in a political alliance with the leading men in the opposition, against the prime minister and his measures. To this coalition was given the epithet of the Broad Bottom, as if it had been established on a constitutional foundation, comprehending individuals of every class, without distinction of party. The earl of Granville perceiving it impossible for him to withstand such an opposition in parliament, resigned his employments; and the earl of Harrington succeeded him as secretary of state. The duke of Bedford was made first lord of the admiralty, the earl of Chesterfield declared lord-lieutenant of Ireland; the lords Gower and Cobham were re-established in the offices they had resigned; and Mr. Littleton was appointed a commissioner of the treasury.

The death of the unhappy emperor Charles VII. which happened in January 1745, gave an entire change to the face of affairs in the empire. The grand duke of Tuscany, consort to her Hungarian majesty, being instantly declared a candidate for the Imperial crown, his pretensions were warily opposed by the French king and his allies. The court of Vienna taking advantage of the late emperor's death, sent an army to invade Bavaria, under general Bathiani, who routed the French and
Palatine

Palatine troops at Piffenhoven, took possession of Rain, surrounded and disarmed 6000 Hessians in the neighbourhood of Ingolstadt, and drove the Bavarians out of that electorate; while the young elector was obliged to abandon his capital and retire to Augsbürg. In this emergency, he consented to become reconciled to the court of Vienna; and concluded a treaty with the queen, in which she consented to acknowledge, that his father had possessed the Imperial dignity, and that his mother was empress dowager; and to restore his dominions, with all the forces, artillery, stores, and ammunition, which she had taken from his father and him: on the other hand, he became guarantee of the Pragmatic sanction, and engaged to give his vote for her husband, the grand duke of Tuscany, at the ensuing election of a king of the Romans. In the mean time, he dismissed the auxiliaries that were in his pay; and they were permitted to retire without molestation.

On the 2d of September the grand duke was declared king of the Romans, and emperor of Germany; he having the votes of all the electors, except Brandenburg and the Palatinate. Mean while the king of Prussia had conquered great part of Silesia. Lehwald, the Prussian general, defeated a body of 12,000 Austrians; and the town of Ratibor was taken by assault. In May, the king of Prussia entered Silesia at the head of 70,000 men, and prince Charles of Lorrain, who had been joined by the duke of Saxe-Weissenfels and 20,000 Saxons, was
 attacked

attacked by his Prussian majesty near Friedberg. The battle was maintained from morning till noon, when the Saxons giving way, prince Charles was obliged to retire, with the loss of 12,000 men, and a great number of artillery, colours, and standards. This victory, which was far from proving decisive, was obtained on the 4th of June. The king of Prussia now transferred the seat of the war into Bohemia, where the Austrians attempted, at day-break, to surprize him in his camp at Sohr, but met with such a warm reception, that, notwithstanding their repeated efforts during four hours, they were repulsed, and obliged to retreat after leaving 5000 killed upon the spot, besides 2000 that were taken, with twenty pieces of cannon.

The king of Prussia then returned to Berlin, and in August signed a convention with the king of Great Britain, who became guarantee of his possessions in Silesia, and promised to vote for the grand duke of Tuscany, at the election of an emperor. But receiving intelligence, that the queen of Hungary and the king of Poland, had resolved to invade Brandenburg with three different armies; and that for this purpose, his Polish majesty had demanded of the Czarina, the succours stipulated by treaty between the two crowns, he solicited the maritime powers to interpose their good offices with the court of Petersburg; but was so far from waiting for the success of their remonstrances, that he made a sudden irruption into Lusatia, took Gorlitz, and obliged prince Charles

Charles of Lorrain to retire before him into Bohemia. He then entered Leipzig, and laid Saxony under contribution. The king of Poland, unable to resist the torrent, quitted his capital and retired to Prague. His troops, though reinforced by a body of Austrians, were defeated at Pirna on the 17th of December; and his Prussian majesty became master of Dresden. The king of Poland thus stripped of his hereditary dominions, was obliged to agree to the terms required by the conqueror; and under the mediation of his Britannic majesty, a treaty was concluded at Dresden, by which the king of Prussia retained all the contributions he had levied in Saxony, and was to receive a million of German crowns from his Polish majesty. On the other hand, the king of Prussia and the elector Palatine consented to acknowledge the grand duke as emperor of Germany.

The French king, vexed at his being unable to prevent the grand duke's being raised to the imperial throne, resolved to humble the house of Austria, by conquering the Netherlands; and assembled a prodigious army under count Saxe, when the king, with the dauphin, arriving in the camp, they invested the strong town of Tournay on the 30th of April 1745: but the Dutch garrison, which consisted of 8000 men, made a vigorous defence. The duke of Cumberland assuming the chief command of the royal army, was assisted with the advice of count Königsegg, an Austrian general, and the prince of Waldeck, commander of the

Dutch

Dutch forces. Though their army was great, both inferior to that of the enemy, they resolved to march to the relief of Tournay; and on the 28th of April, took post at Maulbre, in sight of the French army, which was encamped on an eminence, and extended from the village of Antoine, to a large wood beyond Vezon, with Fontenoy in their front. The allies employed the next day in driving the enemy from some out-posts, and clearing the defiles, through which they were obliged to advance to the attack; while the French compleated their batteries and prepared for their reception. On the 30th of April, the duke of Cumberland marched against the enemy, at two o'clock in the morning: a brisk cannonade ensued, and about nine, both armies were engaged. The French were driven beyond their lines, by the British infantry, but the left wing of the allies failing in the attack of Fontenoy, and the cavalry not advancing to support the flanks, they were obliged, from the prodigious fire of the French batteries, to measure back their ground with some disorder. They however, rallied, and returning to the charge with redoubled ardour, drove the enemy to their camp with great slaughter: but as they were unsupported by the other wing, and exposed both in front and flank, to a dreadful fire, which did great execution; the duke was obliged, at about three in the afternoon, to retreat, which was effected in tolerable order. This battle was fought with great intrepidity. The allies lost about 12,000 men, and the French almost an equal number.

The

THE British and Hanoverian troops fought with such bravery, that if they had been properly supported by the Dutch forces, and their flanks covered by the cavalry, the French would probably have been obliged to abandon their enterprize. The duke of Cumberland left his sick and wounded to the humanity of the victors: but the garrison of Tournay, though deprived of all hopes of relief, maintained the place till the 21st of June, when the garrison obtained an honourable capitulation. The duke suspecting that the enemy had a design upon Ghent, sent 4000 men to reinforce the garrison of that city; but they unhappily falling into an ambuscade, were all killed or taken, except a few dragoons, who escaped to Ostend. On that very night, which was the 12th of June, Ghent was surprized by a detachment of the French army. Afterwards they invested and took Ostend, Dendermond, Oudenarde, Newport, and Aeth; and the French king, after having subdued the greatest part of the Austrian Netherlands, returned in triumph to Paris.

At the same time, the campaign in Italy was extremely unfavourable to the queen of Hungary, and the king of Sardinia. The strong citadel of Tortona was taken by the Spaniards, who also reduced Parma and Placentia; and forcing the passage of the Tanaro, compelled his Sardinian majesty to take shelter on the other side of the Po. Pavia was taken by escalade; and the city of Milan submitted to Don Philip, though the Austrian garrison still kept possession

sion of the citadel: all Piedmont, on both sides the Po, as far as Turin, was reduced; and that capital threatened with a siege. So that all the territories in Italy, belonging to the house of Austria, were subdued; and the king of Sardinia stripped of all his dominions: yet he still continued firm to his engagements, and refused all proposals of a separate accommodation.

In the course of this year, the naval transactions of Great Britain were remarkably spirited. Admiral Rowley had succeeded Matthews in the command of the fleet in the Mediterranean; and Savona, Genoa, Final, St. Remo, and Bastia, the capital of Corsica, were bombarded. Several Spanish ships were also taken. In the East Indies, commodore Barnet took many French ships richly laden; and commodore Townshend, in the latitude of Martinico, took about thirty merchant ships belonging to the enemy, under convoy of four men of war, two of which were destroyed. Uncommon success also attended the English privateers.

But the most important conquest was that of Louisburg, on the island of Cape-Breton. The scheme of reducing this fortress was planned in Boston, recommended by their general assembly of New England, and approved by his majesty. A body of 6000 men was formed under the conduct of Mr. Pepperel, a trader of Piscataway, and these being embarked in transports, proceeded with commodore Warren, who had ten ships of war under his command, and were landed without opposition. The enemy soon aban-

doned their grand battery, which was detached from the town; and its being immediately seized by the English, contributed to the success of the enterprize. The American troops, reinforced by 800 marines, carried on their approaches by land; while the squadron blocked up the place by sea. A French ship of the line, with some smaller vessels, destined for the relief of the garrison, were taken by the British cruisers; and the town being soon greatly damaged by the bombs and bullets of the besiegers, the governor despairing of relief, capitulated on the 17th of June, when the city of Louisbourg, and the isle of Cape-Breton, were surrendered to his Britannic majesty. A few days after, two French East-India ships, and another from Peru, laden with treasure, sailed into the harbour, imagining that it still belonged to France, and were taken.

While the ravages of war thus raged in the continent of Europe, and the isles of America, the son of the chevalier de St. George, resolved to make another effort to ascend the throne of England. He was flattered by the sanguine representations of a few of his adherents, who assured him, that the whole nation was disaffected to the reigning family; and that the most considerable persons of the kingdom, would seize the first opportunity of crowding to his standard; and at the same time he was promised powerful succours from France. Being furnished with a sum of money and a supply of arms by the French ministry, he embarked on board a small frigate at Port St. Lazare, accompanied

accompanied by the marquis of Tullibardine, and a few other adventurers; and setting sail on the 14th of July, 1745, was joined by the Elizabeth, a French ship of sixty-six guns: but falling in with the Lion, an English ship of war, an obstinate action ensued, and the Elizabeth was so disabled, that she with difficulty reached the harbour of Brest, while the Lion floated like a wreck upon the water. Prince Charles continued his course in the frigate to the western isles of Scotland, and landed on the coast of Lochaber. Soon after, the young pretender having assembled about 1500 men, encamped in the neighbourhood of Fort William.

The government being alarmed, a proclamation was issued, offering a reward of 30,000 l. to any person who should apprehend the young pretender; and his majesty being abroad, a courier was dispatched to hasten his return; and he arrived in England about the latter end of August. A demand was made of 6000 Dutch auxiliaries; and several British regiments were recalled from the Netherlands. The principal nobility of the nation made a tender of their services to their sovereign, and some of them received commissions to levy regiments for the suppression of the rebellion. Bodies of volunteers were incorporated in London and many other places; and associations formed in different towns and counties. In a word, the whole nation seemed unanimously bent on opposing the pretender, who, however, made a surprizing progress. Sir John Cope, who

commanded the troops in that kingdom, advanced against the rebels; but finding that they had taken possession of a strong pass, he changed his march, and proceeded to Inverness, while the pretender marched to Perth, where the chevalier de St. George was proclaimed king of Great Britain, and the public money seized for his use. The same steps were taken at Dundee, and other places; till at length his army being greatly augmented, he entered Edinburgh, and took possession of the royal palace of Holy-rood house, in the suburbs. He then caused his father to be proclaimed at the market-cross, where a manifesto was also read, in which the chevalier de St. George declared his son Charles regent of his dominions, promised to dissolve the union, and redress the grievances of Scotland; but Charles could not seize the treasure belonging to the two banks of that kingdom: for this had been previously conveyed into the castle, which had a strong garrison under the command of general Gueff.

Mean while, Sir John Cope marched back, from Inverness to Aberdeen, where he embarked with his troops, and landed at Dunbar, about twenty miles to the eastward of Edinburgh, and was joined by two regiments of dragoons, which, at the approach of the high-land army, had retired from the capital. His troops now amounted to 3000 men, with which he marched towards Edinburgh; and on the 20th of September, encamped near Preston-Pans, having the village of Tranant in his front, and the sea in his rear. Early the next morning,

morning, he was attacked by the young pretender, at the head of about 3000 highlanders, who charged sword in hand, with such impetuosity, that his troops were seized with a panic; and in less than ten minutes after the battle began, they were entirely broken and routed, notwithstanding all the endeavours of the officers to rally them. All the infantry was either killed or taken; and the colours, artillery, tents, baggage, and military chest, fell into the hands of the victor, who returned to Edinburgh in triumph. In this engagement, not above eighty of the rebels lost their lives, tho' five hundred of the king's troops were killed on the field of battle; among whom was the brave colonel Gardiner, who disdained to save his life by flight; and being abandoned by his own regiment of dragoons, alighted from his horse, and joining the infantry, fought on foot, till he fell covered with wounds.

The young pretender having, by this success, obtained a train of field artillery, and a considerable sum of money, endeavoured to cut off the communication between the castle and city of Edinburgh; imposed taxes; seized the merchandize deposited in the king's warehouses; compelled the city of Glasgow to pay him a large sum; and laid the country under contribution. The number of his followers daily increased, and he received considerable supplies of money and ammunition, by single ships which arrived from France.

The advantages obtained by the pretender spread a general consternation throughout England;

land; and all orders and ranks vied with each other, in displaying their loyalty and abhorrence of this unnatural rebellion; and the dread of an invasion from France having caused a great run upon the bank, above eleven hundred merchants and eminent tradesmen, subscribed their names to an agreement, not to refuse bank notes in any payment to be made to them. On the 17th of October, the parliament met; and his majesty received, upon this interesting occasion, the most zealous and loyal addresses; the *habeas corpus* act was suspended; and an act passed to enable his majesty to raise the militia. Immediately after the session was opened, the duke of Cumberland arrived from the Netherlands, and was followed by another detachment of dragoons and infantry. The trained bands of London were reviewed by his majesty. Volunteers in that city, and in different parts of the kingdom, applied themselves to learn the exercise of arms; and all the English seemed to rise up as one man against this formidable invader.

The young pretender having collected about 5000 men, resolved to march into England; which, having entered, he invested Carlisle, and that city surrendered in less than three days. He there found a considerable quantity of arms, and caused his father to be proclaimed king of Great Britain. General Wade, on being informed of his progress, advanced from Newcastle across the country, as far as Hexham, where receiving intelligence that Carlisle was reduced, he returned to his former station.

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Mean while, orders were issued for assembling another army in Staffordshire, under the command of Sir John Ligonier.

Charles, leaving a small garrison in the castle of Carlisle, advanced to Penrith; and passing through Lancaster and Preston, proceeded to Manchester, where he established his headquarters. Here he formed a regiment of all that had joined him in England, amounting to about two hundred men, the command of which he gave to Mr. Townley. In the beginning of December, they advanced to Congleton, as if they intended to meet the duke of Cumberland, who had now assumed the command of the army in Staffordshire; but suddenly turning off to the left, he proceeded to Derby, seeming to have an intention to slip by the duke, and proceed directly towards London. This news no sooner reached that city, than it occasioned the greatest consternation imaginable: the troops about London were ordered to march, and form a camp on Finchley-common, where the king resolved to take the field in person. The militia of London and Middlesex were kept in readiness to march: double watches were posted at the city gates, and signals of alarm were appointed. The volunteers of the city were incorporated into a regiment: the practitioners of the law, headed by the judges; the weavers of Spital fields, and other communities, engaged in associations. Yet the trading part of the city, and those concerned in the money corporations, reposing little confidence in the courage and discipline of their militia

militia and volunteers, were overwhelmed with fear and dejection, and prognosticated their own ruin in an approaching revolution.

This state of anxious suspense was, however, of short duration: for the young Pretender finding, himself disappointed in his high expectations, called a council at Derby; and, after violent debates, the majority determined to retreat with all possible expedition to Scotland. They abandoned Derby on the 6th of December, early in the morning, and proceeded with such celerity, that on the 9th they arrived at Manchester; their van-guard being there some time before the rest of the army, were treated with such marks of contempt, that they did not dare to dismount, till the rest of the army arrived. For these insults, the town of Manchester was fined, and obliged to pay the rebels a considerable sum.

The duke of Cumberland had no sooner notice of their retreat, than he set out in pursuit of them with all the horse in his army, and a thousand foot soldiers, mounted on horseback. Marshal Wade, who had marched after the rebels to the southward as far as Wakefield, detached a considerable body of cavalry, under the command of major-general Oglethorpe, in pursuit of the rebels; and, with the rest of his army, returned to Newcastle. On the 18th of December the duke came up with the rear of the rebels at Clifton, in Northumberland; and after a smart attack, drove them from the village. On the 30th his royal highness retook Carlisle, after a siege of nine days, and made
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the rebel garrison prisoners ; they amounted to about 400 men, who were confined in different jails ; and the duke returned to London.

The Pretender proceeded by the way of Dumfries to Glasgow, where he exacted severe contributions ; and advancing towards Stirling, was joined by some forces which had been assembled in his absence, and by a small reinforcement of French and Irish. He then fixed his head quarters at Perth, where the earl of Cromartie, and others, brought him 2000 men ; after which he invested the castle of Stirling, which was commanded by general Blakeney. A considerable body of forces had, by this time, assembled at Edinburgh, under the conduct of general Hawley, who marched to relieve Stirling castle ; and on the 7th of January came to a battle. The enemy had taken possession of a hill on their right ; and Hawley ordered two regiments of dragoons to drive them from that eminence ; but they were broke by the first volley ; and retreating with precipitation, fell in amongst the infantry, which they immediately threw into disorder ; this was greatly encreased by the wind and rain beating full, and with great violence in their faces, which also occasioned their fire to be weak and irregular. This discouraged the whole line of foot ; but several regiments rallied under brigadier Cholmondely, and stopped the career of the rebels. This stand gave general Huske an opportunity of rallying the other regiments, which probably saved the army from a total defeat ; and favoured their retreat to
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their camp at Falkirk, where, being dispirited by their not being able to make use of their fire-arms, through the excessive rain, and being followed by the rebels, they set fire to their tents, and retired to Linlithgow, after having lost above 400 men, most of them dragoons; among whom were many officers who behaved with great bravery, and about 300 were taken prisoners. They also lost seven pieces of cannon, 600 muskets, a large quantity of grenades, twenty-eight waggons laden with military stores, and all the tents and baggage that had escaped the flames. Mean while the rebels returned to the siege of Stirling castle, though they had no artillery fit for the purpose.

Upon this misfortune at Falkirk, it was thought expedient, that the duke of Cumberland should take upon him the command of the army in Scotland. On the 30th of January 1746 he arrived at Edinburgh, and the next day marched towards Stirling; but the rebels, instead of waiting for him, retired northward with great precipitation: the duke followed them with the royal army, as fast as the season and the extreme badness of the roads would permit; but did not arrive at Aberdeen till the 27th of February.

In the mean time, the rebels reduced the castle of Inverness and Fort Augustus; and laid siege to Fort William and the castle of Blair; but were obliged to retire. They had also the advantage in several skirmishes with the king's troops in the highlands. These were, however, counterbalanced by some advantages

vantages obtained by his majesty's arms. The sloop of war, which the rebels had surprized at Montrose, was retaken with a considerable sum of money, and a great quantity of arms on board, which she had brought from France for the use of the Pretender. Several bodies of rebels were also defeated; and in one of these encounters the earl of Cromartie was taken.

The duke of Cumberland, who was beloved by the army, began his march from Aberdeen, in the beginning of April; and on the 12th passed the Spey, a deep and rapid river, without opposition from the rebels; though a considerable number of them appeared on the opposite side. His royal highness proceeded to Nairn; and being informed, that the rebels were encamped at Culloden, near Inverness, and were resolved to hazard a battle, he rested there on the 15th, to refresh his men. On the 16th of April, the duke having decamped from Nairn early in the morning, after a march of nine miles, perceived the highlanders drawn up in order of battle, to the number of 5000 men, in thirteen divisions, supplied with some pieces of artillery. The royal army, which was much more numerous, the duke immediately formed into three lines, dispersed in excellent order; and between one and two in the afternoon the cannonading began. The artillery of the rebels being ill served, did little execution; but that of the king's troops made a dreadful havock. The rebels, impatient of this fire, attacked, with their usual fury, the
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left wing of the royal army, throwing away their guns, and rushing forwards, armed with the sword and target; and, by this means, put some regiments of the first line into disorder; but those regiments being supported by the second line, soon put a stop to their career, and threw them into confusion. At the same time, the dragoons under Hawley pulled down a park-wall that covered their right flank; and falling in among them, sword in hand, rendered their confusion complete. By this time Kingston's horse attacked the left flank of the rebels; and breaking through them, met with Hawley's horse, who had done the same in the opposite wing, in the very centre of the ground where the rebel army had been drawn up. By the best accounts, says Tindal*, the young Pretender, though his body of reserve was still entire, and though he had it in his power, by rallying his men, to have made some impression upon the king's horse, by a vigorous fire; yet he galloped off without attempting to make any resistance; though it is certain, that not above 400 of his men were then killed. The main body of the rebels fled different ways, but met death in them all; it being impossible to stop the fury of the horse and dragoons, who pursued them; and therefore about 2000 were killed upon the field of battle, and between that place and Inverness, where the French officers and soldiers, who had never

* Vol. IX. of his continuation of Rapin's history, p. 2, 138.

once engaged, surrendered themselves prisoners to major-general Bland, and gave their parole not to stir out of Inverness, without leave from his royal highness. The killed and wounded in the king's army, according to the London Gazette, amounted to only 310. The glory of this victory is said to have been sullied by the barbarity of the soldiers, who were greatly exasperated against the rebels; but these cruelties were greatly exaggerated, and the stories of the horrid barbarities committed by order of the duke of Cumberland, were destitute of all foundation. The prisons were scarce capacious enough to hold the number of the prisoners, who were either taken, or surrendered themselves prisoners to the king's forces. This victory put a final period to the rebellion; but the duke continued some time with the army, to give proper orders for securing the tranquillity of the country; while the young Pretender wandered from place to place, among the mountains and western islands, often without any attendants, till the 17th of September, when he embarked, with about thirty of his followers, in a privateer of St. Maloes, which landed him, covered with rags, and worn out with fatigue and hardships, at Roscau, near Morlaix in Brittany.

The news of this victory no sooner reached England, than the nation was transported with joy, and extolled the duke of Cumberland as a hero and deliverer. His majesty was congratulated by both houses of parliament on this auspicious event. They, also, in the most solemn

manner, transmitted their thanks to his royal highness; and the commons soon after settled 25,000 l. per annum on him and his issue male. An act was passed for attainting the earl of Kelly, viscount Strathallan, lord Pittligo, and forty others, of high treason. The earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie, with the lords Balmerino and Lovat, were tried and found guilty by their peers. Cromartie was, afterwards, granted his life; but Kilmarnock and Balmerino were sentenced to be beheaded on Tower-hill, on the 18th of August, and Lovat on the 9th of April, in the succeeding year.

Kilmarnock was a nobleman of fine personal accomplishments: he had been educated in the principles of liberty, and had engaged in the rebellion contrary to his conscience. He had been pushed forward by the desperate situation of his fortune, and by his resentment, on being deprived by the government of a pension, which he had for some time enjoyed, and, contrary to his principles, had joined with those who endeavoured to overthrow the laws, religion, and liberty of his country; thus he being convinced of his guilt, died with the marks of repentance and calm resignation. Balmerino, who had been bred to arms, had acted upon principle, and therefore died glorying in the cause for which he suffered. Charles Ratcliffe, Esq; the titular earl of Derwentwater, was beheaded on the 8th of December, in pursuance of a sentence formerly passed upon him, for being concerned in the rebellion of

1715. Lord Lovat, while at the Tower, gave a loose to his natural disposition, and avowed himself a Popish Jacobite; when he was brought upon the scaffold, though he had several times betrayed both parties, and shewn himself destitute of every principle of honour and conscience, he intimated, that he died for his country, exclaiming, "*Dulce et decorum pro patria mori*;" and though turned of eighty, and very infirm, surveyed the croud with attention, examined the axe, jested with the executioner, and layed his head upon the block with the utmost indifference. Of the inferior agents in this rebellion, seventeen officers of the rebel army were hanged, drawn and quartered, at Kennington-common, near London; nine suffered death in the same manner at Carlisle, eleven at York, and seven at Penrith, and a considerable number were transported to the plantations. Thus, from the lenity of the king, fewer persons suffered death on account of this rebellion, than was ever known on the like occasion.

The war on the continent, in 1746, was so far from being at an end by the election of an emperor, that it raged with redoubled vigour. The States-General, notwithstanding the pains they had taken to avoid engaging in the war, were struck with consternation at the city of Brussels being reduced during the winter; at their being stripped of their barrier, and once more in danger of being overwhelmed by that ambitious monarch the French king. The people were persuaded, that nothing was want-

ing but the prince of Orange being made stadtholder, to save them from ruin; and the opposite faction equally dreaded the power of a stadtholder, the neighbourhood of a French army, and the seditious disposition of the people; and now applied in the most pressing manner to his Britannic majesty, that the allies might have the superiority in the Netherlands, by the beginning of the campaign: but the rebellion rendered it impossible for him to make those early preparations that were necessary to check the enemy's progress.

The French king, with count Saxe, his general, took the field in the latter end of April, at the head of 120,000 men, and advanced towards the allies, who amounted to 44,000, under Bathiani, and retired before them. Marshal Saxe immediately invested Antwerp, which, in a few days, surrendered; he then took the strong town of Mons in Hainault; St. Guislain and Charleroy met with the same fate; so that by the middle of July the French king was absolute master of Flanders, Hainault, and Brabant.

By this time, prince Charles of Lorraine assumed the command of the confederate army, which being reinforced by the Hessian troops from Scotland, the Dutch forces commanded by the prince of Waldeck, and a fresh body of Austrians, amounted to 87,000 men. The allies, supposing the storm would next fall upon Namure, advanced thither: but a detachment of the enemy, under count Lowendalph, taking possession of Huy, where was
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found a large magazine belonging to the confederates, and the confederate army being unable to procure subsistence, prince Charles retired across the Maeze, and abandoned Namure. The enemy immediately invested that city; and the cannonading and bombardment were so terrible, that, in a few days, Namure was converted into a heap of ruins; and the French king took possession of it within about twenty days after the trenches were opened. In the mean time, the allied army being joined by Sir John Ligonier, with some British and Bavarian battalions; prince Charles resolved to give the enemy battle. On the 30th of September, the army took possession of the villages of Liers, Wareem, and Roucoux: on the 1st of October count Saxe advanced against them with the French army, in three columns; and about noon, a terrible cannonading began. At two o'clock, prince Waldeck, on the left, was charged with great fury; and after a brave defence, overpowered by numbers. The villages were attacked in columns; and as one brigade was repulsed, another succeeded, till the allies were obliged to abandon these posts, and retreat towards Maestricht, with the loss of 5000 men, and thirty pieces of artillery. The victory, however, cost the French general a much greater number of lives. This action terminated the campaign, and the troops on both sides took up their winter quarters.

In Italy, the campaign was unfavourable to the French and Spaniards. In February, baron Leutrum, the Piedmontese general, took the

strong fortress of Asse; then reduced the citadel of Alexandria, which had been blocked up by the Spaniards in the winter: took Casal, recovered Valencia, and obliged Maillebois to retire to the neighbourhood of Genoa. On the other side, Don Philip and count Gages abandoned Milan, Pavia, and Parma, retreating before the Austrians with the utmost precipitation to Placentia, where, on the 3d of June, they were joined by the French forces under Maillebois. Don Philip being now at the head of 52,000 men, resolved to attack the Austrians in their camp at San Lazaro, before they were reinforced by his Sardinian majesty. Accordingly, on the evening of the 4th of June, he marched with equal silence and expedition; and at about eleven o'clock, entered the Austrian trenches, when a desperate battle ensued. The Austrians, who were prepared for the attack, defended themselves with great vigour till the morning; when, quitting their intrenchments, they, in their turn, charged the enemy with such fury, that after an obstinate resistance, the combined army was broke, and retired with precipitation; leaving on the field 15,000 men killed, wounded, and taken, together with sixty colours, and ten pieces of artillery.

In a few weeks after, the Austrians were joined by the Piedmontese; and the king of Sardinia assumed the chief command. Don Philip retired to the other side of the Po, and extended his troops in the open country of the Milanese. The king of Sardinia resolved to pass

pass that river after him ; but on the 9th of August, in the evening, was attacked by Don Philip at Rotto Freddo, and a furious battle ensued, which lasted till four in the afternoon of the next day, when the enemy retired in great disorder to Tortone, with the loss of 8000 men, eighteen pieces of canon, and a considerable number of colours and standards. The victors immediately summoned Placentia to surrender ; and the garrison, consisting of 9000 men, were made prisoners of war.

Some time after, the victorious confederates appeared before Genoa, when the senate of that city thinking it incapable of defence, submitted to a very mortifying capitulation ; by which the gates were delivered up to the Austrians, with all their arms, artillery, and ammunition ; and the city was subjected to the most cruel contributions.

The king of Sardinia, leaving the marquis de Botta at Genoa, with 16,000 men, resolved to pass the Var, and to pursue the French and Spaniards into Provence ; but being taken ill of the small pox, entrusted the conduct of that expedition to count Brown, an Austrian general, born in Ireland, who passed the Var, drove the French before him, and laid the open country under contribution. Mean while the Genoese, being cruelly oppressed by the Austrians, were reduced to despair, and resolved to make a last effort for the recovery of their liberty and independence. They accordingly took arms in secret ; seized several important posts in the city ; surprized some battallions of
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the Austrians; surrounded others, and cut them in pieces; and, in short, drove them out with great slaughter. The marquis de Botta being overpowered by numbers, and in dread of the peasants in the country, who had taken arms, retreated to the pass of the Bochetta, on the side of Lombardy, where he secured himself in an advantageous situation, and even reduced Savona and Gavi, while the Genoese, with great industry, fortified their city, raised troops, and prepared for a vigorous defence.

The British nation obtained during this year (1746) little honour from their naval transactions. Commodore Peyton, who commanded six ships of war in the East Indies, shamefully declined a decisive engagement with a French squadron of inferior force, and abandoned the important settlement of Madras, which was taken by the French, without opposition. Fort St. David, and the other British factories in India, would have probably shared the same fate, had not the enemy's naval force in that country, been shattered, and partly destroyed, by a terrible tempest. An attempt was made the same year, to take Port l'Orient, on the coast of Britany, but without success. The British squadrons in the West Indies performed, in the course of this year, no exploit of consequence. Commodore Lee, who was stationed off Martinico, allowed a French fleet of merchant-ships, and their convoy, to pass by his squadron unmolested; and commodore Mitchell behaved scandalously in a rencounter with a French squadron, under the command of
M. de

M. de Conflans, who, in his return to Europe, took the *Severn*, an English ship of fifty guns. The cruizers on all sides, English, French, and Spaniards, were extremely alert; and though the English lost the most ships, this difference was more than overbalanced by the superior value of the prizes taken from the enemy. In the course of this year, twenty-two Spanish privateers, and sixty-six merchantmen, including ten register ships, fell into the hands of the British cruizers: from the French, the English took seven ships of war, ninety privateers, and about 300 trading vessels.

Philip V. king of Spain, had died in July, 1746, and the new king being supposed to be well affected to the British nation, an effort was made to detach him from the interest of France; and the French king, at length, discovering an inclination to peace, a congress was opened at Breda, where the plenipotentiaries of the emperor, Great Britain, France, and Holland, assembled; but the French were so insolent in their demands, that the conferences were soon broken off.

The parliament meeting in November, the king exhorted them to concert the proper measures for pursuing the war with all possible vigilance; and as all those who had conducted the opposition were now concerned in the administration, little or no objection was made to any demand or proposal of the ministers; whence the supplies granted this session amounted to the enormous sum of 9,425,254*l.* But the king, in order to exhibit a specimen of his desire

desire to diminish the public expence, ordered the third and fourth troops of his life-guards to be disbanded, and reduced three regiments of horse to the quality of dragoons.

In February, 1747, the duke of Cumberland began to assemble the allied forces, which amounted to 120,000 men; and in April, count Saxe, who had been created marshal-general of France, took the field at the head of 140,000 men, while count de Clermont commanded a separate body of nineteen battalions and thirty squadrons. On the 16th of April, count Lowendahl, with 27,000 men, was detached to invade Dutch Flanders; and, at the same time, the French minister at the Hague presented a memorial to the States, intimating that his majesty was obliged, by the necessity of war, to take this step; but that his troops should observe the strictest discipline, without interfering with the religion, government, or commerce of the republic; and that the places he should take, should be restored, as soon as the United Provinces should give convincing proofs that they would no longer assist the enemies of France.

Count Lowendahl then entering Dutch Brabant, invested and took the town and fortress of Sluys, and also Sas-van Ghent; while the marquis de Contades, with another detachment, reduced the forts of Perle and Leifkenshoek, with the town of Phillippine. The fort of Sanberg was vigorously defended by two English battalions; but they were overpowered, and obliged to retire to Welsthoorden; and

and count Lowendahl laid siege to Hurst, which was shamefully surrendered by la Roque, the Dutch governor; though he knew that nine battalions were marching to his relief. The French general then took possession of Axel and Terneuse, and began to prepare flat-bottomed boats, for a descent on the island of Zealand. The people of Holland were struck with consternation: they saw the enemy at their doors, and owed their immediate preservation to a British squadron stationed at the Swin. The common people in several towns of Zealand being reduced to despair, compelled their magistrates to declare the prince of Orange stadtholder; and he himself, in a letter to the states of Zealand, offered his services, for the defence of the province; upon which he was nominated captain-general and admiral of Zealand. Rotterdam, and the whole province of Holland, followed their example; and on the 2d of May the prince of Orange was invested by the States-General, with the power and dignity of stadtholder, captain-general, and admiral of the United Provinces. The consequences of this resolution instantly appeared. The peasants were armed, the army augmented, a council of war established to enquire into the conduct of the governors, who had given up the places on the frontiers; and orders were issued to commence hostilities against the French, both by sea and land.

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